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ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

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Acalanes *Rocks The Vote*

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Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

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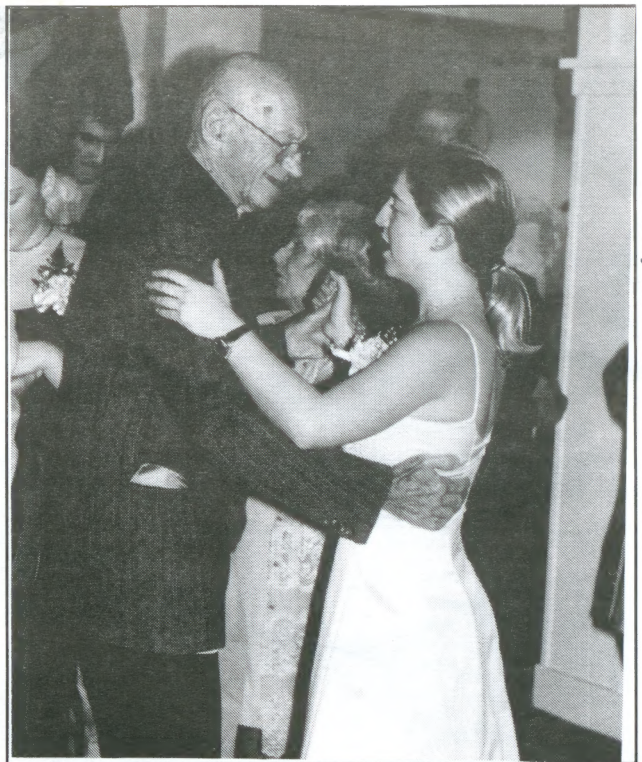
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Zack Burnside and Al Gore's second cousin pump up the crowd at the McCain rally at DVC.



Courtesy Photo

Senior Nikala Prowznik dances with a Rossmoor resident at her Gold Award Project, a true "Senior Prom."

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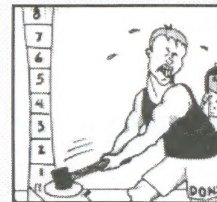
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ACALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

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ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students Call New Rules Unfair

By Danny Ebert
Staff Writer

The new attendance policy implemented at AHS, allowing only 15 days of absences per semester for each student, has sparked controversy among students.

Prior to the policy, students were allowed to miss classes for excused reasons without limit. The new policy states that unexcused absences above 5 and total absences above 15 will result in an F drop for that class.

The rule, according to Principal Keith Schmidt, is not fully retroactive. Absences incurred before the policy was announced will count towards the 15-day limit, but the administration will take the reasons of absence into account.

Students are questioning why Acalanes decided to use Miramonte's policy. "I think the policy sucks. I'm in AP classes and I'm going to get penalized for stuff like AP tests," said junior Daryl Dudum.

AUHSD Administrative Assistant Cindy Wadsworth said, "We are looking for a policy that we can use throughout the district, and Schmidt requested that it be piloted at Acalanes High School. Miramonte has been using the 15 day policy for a year now, and has been very successful with it."

Miramonte Attendance Secretary Terri Almeida said, "The attendance policy at Miramonte was driven into effect by the teachers. It has accomplished what we wanted it to, less absences. As of right now anything school related counts towards those 15 days; sports, academic decathlon, A.P. tests, etc." Miramonte sophomore, Georgios Theaphanous, said, "The new policy doesn't seem to affect too many people. As for seniors, they skip 10 days of school throughout the semester instead of 15."

As of right now, the Administration here at Acalanes is still deciding over what it considers to be an excused absence. It has determined that illnesses like common colds,

field trips, and doctor's appointments will comprise part of those 15 days. "If a student has run their number of missed days up to 15, and then they get a cold, and miss a day, 16 days means they've lost credit," said Principal Schmidt. On the other hand, religious holidays, long term illnesses, trips to the office, and sports events away from home, in which a student must miss 7th. period to make the bus, are permitted. "If someone comes down with mononucleosis, and is out for 2-3 weeks, we will take that into consideration," said Principal Schmidt. "There is a review process.... When a student goes above the 15 limit, he or she will attend a mandatory meeting with the administration to review what happened."

Students decry the policy, declaring it unfair to those who have busy schedules and weak immune systems. "I think it's wrong to lower a grade for something school related," said sophomore John Fossom. One teacher who wanted to speak under anonymity said, "I voted against this policy because I thought it was unjust to students involved in leadership and sports, however, I think it will work well towards students

who skip class."

The Administration is deciding on Contract Independent Study, but in order to be eligible for Independent Study a student must be out of school for at least 5 days. "This new policy won't affect many students. Fifteen days doesn't seem like much, but in one semester it is. We made a list of students who had missed over 15 days of school last semester, before the policy was in effect, and only 30-40 students out of 1300 had 16 or more days of absence, which isn't a lot," said Principal Schmidt.



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Faden

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Darkroom Processing Flashes Back

By Jenny Jun
Staff Writer

Just as Acalanes students thought their traditional photography program had been over-processed and was about to be thrown out, a flash of decision by the district will keep film developing for the time being.

The step towards co-existing photography is inevitable, but for at least one more year, Acalanes will continue to have a 35mm class. According to Principal Keith Schmidt, the district has many things on its plate now, such as standards and benchmarks, and digital photography is not the main course. But, "at some point in time, it is still the intention to move towards digital, but not completely eliminate 35mm," said Schmidt. "I can't say 35mm is going to be here forever, because forever is a long time," he said.

Schmidt said there is no rush or preparation to have this done by fall. "There is also a lot of concern about it, and we probably need to move a little slower," he said, acknowledging letters and calls from students, parents, and teachers.

Several Acalanes teachers recently wrote a letter that was printed in the Contra Costa Sun about photography changes. This letter spurred questions about photography at Campolindo. "I'd like to bring this issue up and make serious inquiries regarding the decisions made (at Campo)," said parent Kay Johnson.

Photography teacher Kyle Wood said, "I'm very glad that the right choice was made for the kids" at Acalanes. Wood, however, said she was disappointed that she had to hear the decision "through the grapevine" because neither the school nor district administration informed her of decisions on the photography program.

Photography student junior Cecily Miller said that "35mm will continue to stay as long as protests stay strong, but as soon as it dies down, the district will probably make the move to replace traditional," she said. But Schmidt said, "There's no sinister movement going on...and there does tend to be a conservatism to sticking to what you know."

Bob Kelso, LASF chairman for Acalanes, feels the new photography decision was just a "temporary stay of execution" and be-

lieves there should be "an open discussion with administrators, parents, students, and teachers to decide where the photography program is headed," he said.

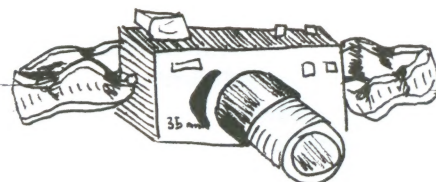
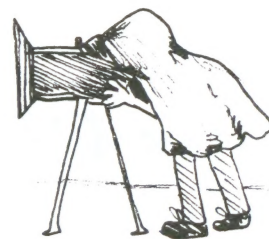
When the digital photography proposal was first introduced, the timeline was very fuzzy, and nothing had been finalized or put in writing. According to Schmidt, now that digital photography is on the back burner for the district, the time frame is even more vague.

Schmidt feels that it was largely a district decision to shutter 35mm, but includes input from the school. Digital photography "is a direction in which all the schools are moving in, and as one of the schools in the district, we need to move in that same direction," he said.

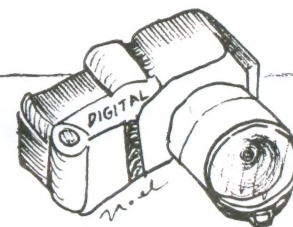
However, district administrators deny taking part in a push for district-wide use of digital photography. Head of Curriculum Johanna VanderMolen said it is a site decision and the district will not decide without the school. "If it was district wide, we would be having all our schools doing (digital photography). But we're not," she said.

VanderMolen said she was "out of the loop" and knew nothing about the move to digital photography. "There's always talk about changes. That doesn't mean it will happen or won't happen," she said. "It's what's preferably right for kids...what will help kids best for their lives." Assistant Superintendent Larry Larson also said he did not know about the considered changes at Acalanes.

Several students attended the Board meeting on Feb. 29, but got no solid answers regarding when or if changes would take place. "I was discouraged that we didn't get responses," said Miller. Although nothing about future actions was mentioned, "We were happy for the immediate response that 35mm was not going away yet," said junior Zoe Palitz.



the future of AHS photography?



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

The Governing Board was unaware of concerns regarding photography. "Nothing had been started on it at the district level because there had not been any recommendations to me yet," said VanderMolen.

Many interviews and letters from professional sources also show that 35mm will never leave the industry artistically or commercially. Professional photographer Rolfe Horn says, "High school is an appropriate place for both types of photography-darkroom to teach the creative art form and digital to use as a more practical tool."

For exactly how long traditional photography alone is likely to stay, no one knows. Acalanes already has one digital camera for experimentation, and digital and 35mm photography are just starting to co-exist in the classroom. "In time, I think we will see the balance will shift towards digital, whether by mandate or by practice," said Schmidt.

For more information on digital photography, see pg. 13.

API RANKINGS

Educators Question Validity Of Rankings

Kristy Mayer
Staff Writer

Acalanes scored a solid 850 on the state Academic Performance Index (API), a measurement used by the state to compare California's public school performance, putting it in the top-ten percent of all the public schools in California. However, many educators are questioning the validity of the API rankings for several reasons, including missing components of the scoring system, and the fact that the Stanford 9 (STAR) test, the determining factor of the API, does not match the state-wide curriculum.

The API grades schools a ranking between 200 and 1000, which was then translated into a number between 1 and 10. Acalanes's 850 translates into a 10 on that scale. The schools are then ranked against schools with the same number on the one to ten scale. In this ranking, Acalanes received a 9, giving it a 10.9 overall ranking.

According to a brochure published by the state, the API was originally structured to rank schools in several areas, including student and staff attendance, graduation rates, exit-exam scores, and scores on the STAR test. Currently, however, the rankings are based solely on the STAR scores because "California doesn't yet have a state-wide system that tracks (statistics) in the same way," said Anne Bancroft, spokesperson for Secretary of Education Gary Hart.

Bancroft was reluctant to predict the number of years it will be before the other components of the API will be figured into the rankings, but she did say that it would be somewhere between two and ten years.

Paul Warren, deputy superintendent for accountability, added that a statewide exit exam for all 9th graders would be added within one or two years, but was unable to give any insight into when the rest of the API's components will be added in.

Although this is the first year the API system is being used, Acalanes' progress from 1998 to 1999 can still be calculated, because the API is currently based solely on scores from the STAR test. In 1998, Acalanes students received an average score of 72 on the reading section of the STAR test, 83 on the math, 80 on the language, 79 on the science,

and 83 on the social studies. In 1999, the scores went down in almost all areas, with students receiving an average of 71 on the reading, 83 on the math, 77 on the language, 76 on the science, and 78 on the social studies.

Principal Keith Schmidt has no explanation for the drop in scores, but he says that there are always slight changes in scores on standardized tests from year to year. Because the STAR test has only been administered for two years, the school has no way of knowing if the drop was unimportant, or if scores will continue to decrease with further tests.

"At this point...I have two years. If we had a third year and it dropped, a fourth year and it dropped, then we'd have to say, 'Wait a minute, what's going on?'...But at this point...I would say (the drop) is not significant," said Schmidt.

Overall, Schmidt feels the scores were good, but there is room for improvement.

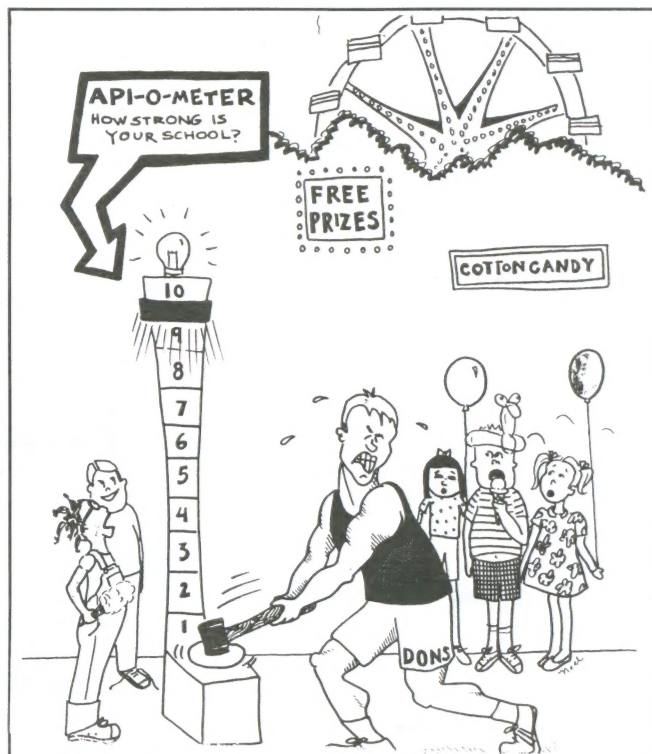
"We're a very solid school and students here do very well. On the other hand, we always have room for improvement. Schools are meant to be dynamic, not static. It's always our task to try and find ways to (educate) better," said Schmidt.

This feeling resonates with the state's expressed purpose of the API. It feels that the API should give schools a starting point, and they can work to improve from there.

"The API gives schools a baseline. Performance improvement targets are what's most important....Davis feels strongly that every school can do better," said Bancroft.

Along with the concern about components of the API, the STAR does not match the state curriculum. However, most people argue that the testing is fair because every student has the same disadvantage.

"Absolutely. It's fair...because every



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

school in the state of California is faced with the same dilemma," said Schmidt.

However, there are some educational organizations, like the California Teachers' Association, that feel the STAR test, already given too much importance because of the lack of other components, is an inadequate measurement of schools' performances.

"The STAR test is just a snapshot in time, and now (too) much is riding on that inadequate assessment of what students are actually doing in classrooms," said Myslinski, spokesperson for the CTA.

The state department is working on the API have a completely different view of the STAR test. "The STAR test tests basic skills that students are expected to know...these are typical benchmarks," said Warren.

The state is working to correct all of the current problems with the API. Next year's scoring system will remain the same (scores will still be based only on the STAR test), however, so the state can accurately compare this year's rankings to next year's. "For the first two years, the API will be based only on the Stanford 9 test, so we can compare apples to apples," said Bancroft.

HOMOPHOBIA

GSA Survey Reveals Student Attitudes

By Scott Schwertsch and
Kerry Ann Reid

Staff Writers

According to the results of a survey at Acalanes, intolerance for homosexuality may be a guy thing.

In a survey taken by the AHS Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA), a student club devoted to promoting tolerance and awareness of homosexual issues, 47% of males reported being "morally opposed to homosexuality," whereas only six percent of females reported this.

Twenty percent of the students surveyed reported that they were morally opposed to homosexuals, and 45% reported using homophobic comments.

Questions ranging from students' personal experiences with homophobia to their moral stance on homosexuality were designed to determine the general attitude of students towards homophobia.

GSA advisor Erik Seebass said that the survey's objective was to raise awareness and gauge the opinion of the student body.

The Acalanes GSA is a member of a coalition of Bay Area GSA's, which suggests the use of surveys to "see how people feel, find out what problems or difficulties people have, and then act on those things," said Seebass.

There was a marked difference between males and females in the surveys. 30% of girls surveyed use homophobic remarks, as opposed to 70% of males.

One 10th grade male who felt that homosexuality was morally wrong wrote, "God doesn't like gays and neither do I."

This, however, was apparently not the common opinion. Seebass said, "Even in a community like Lafayette you have people who really feel, for some reason or another, that (homosexuality) is unacceptable. But it's a small number. I was kind of impressed."

The results also stated that homophobic comments are often used at school. Of the students surveyed, 49% said that they hear these kind of comments often. No one said that they never hear homophobic remarks.

"I think they will eventually be educated," said Seebass.

Hoops Game Nets Fight

By Kevin Medeiros

Staff Writer

Neither the fans nor the players on the Acalanes Varsity Boys Basketball Team were expecting many bricked shots on Feb. 23 at Benicia, but when a brick came flying through the locker room window after a fight on the court, the AHS Boys Basketball Team was escorted to the bus and out of the school.

Acalanes won the game, but the real struggle was after the game when a Benicia player confronted AHS players.

After the fight sparked by incidents during the game, the AHS players were forced to take shelter in their locker room. That, however, did not stop Benicia fans from continuing the fight, allegedly throwing a brick through the window.

According to AHS players, they sought safety in the locker room, but then they started to hear yelling outside. "It seemed as if the fans just wouldn't stop coming after us, they were relentless," said AHS player Carlo Milani.

During a post game team meeting, "we heard the glass shatter and a brick came flying through the window and we heard a car speed off, but no one was hurt," said AHS player Roger Curtis.

The Benicia coach Rick Olson and AHS Principal Keith Schmidt both said that this incident was not acceptable but it may have been because of the competitive nature of the game and the high emotions that had built up in prior games.

"(The Benicia player) did not handle the situation well. He wanted retribution, and that is not acceptable," said Olson.

Schmidt refrained from passing judgement on Benicia because this is not an isolated incident. "I don't want to condemn Benicia because it is not always their guys fault," said Schmidt.

During the game one Benicia player "knocked Roger (Curtis) down and when Roger tried to get up (the Benicia player) kned him back down," according to Milani.

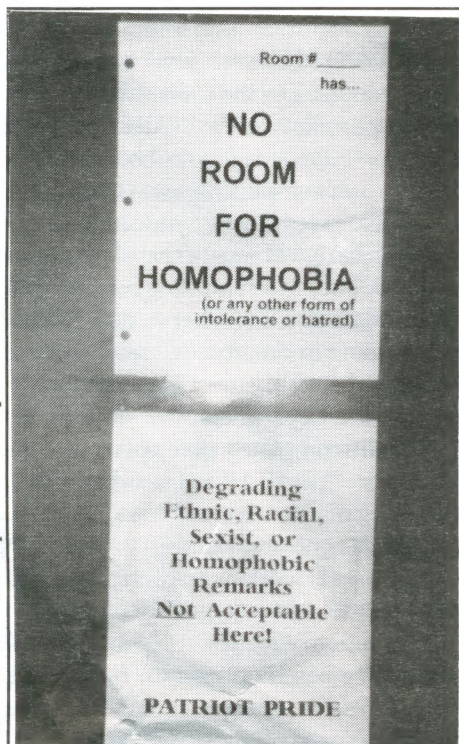
"The guy just kept cheap shotting... so I gave him and elbow while we were running down the court... then I got ejected from the game," said Curtis.

Milani said this was a surprise because "Roger never loses his cool."

The Benicia fans then came down from the stands and pushed the AHS team into the corner of the gym. The Benicia administration, with the help of Dygert and coach Rob Collins, was able to get the players into the locker room.

Many people are noticing lately that sportsmanship in high school sports in general has been on a downfall. "No blood, no foul is a saying that is becoming the norm in high school sports, and I don't agree with that," said Schmidt.

"There are laws regarding confidentiality that prohibit us...from sharing information...we reviewed the incident very carefully and handled it in what we feel was an appropriate manner," said Benicia Principal Robert Palous.



Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund

The other GSA campaign: signs promoting tolerance towards homosexuality.

PROPOSITIONS

AHS Students Speak Out About Politics

By Chris Kim
Staff Writer

Although the majority of students were not old enough to vote on Mar. 7th's primary election, several of the propositions affect students of all ages.

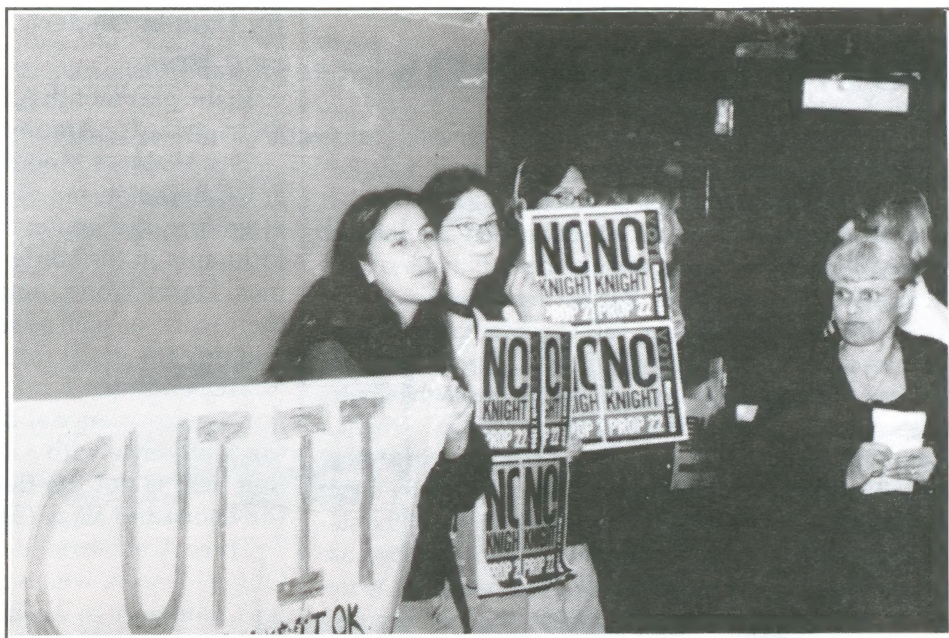
Prop. 26 (Failed)

Proposition 26, which was put on the ballot by petition signatures, allowed all school bond measures to be passed by a majority vote instead of a two-thirds vote. It also required that the purpose of the bond measures be printed on the ballot. School districts would also be required to undergo two independent audits of bond projects each year to ensure that the bond money is being properly spent.

Because every bond measure for Acalanes has been passed, there won't be much of a difference, but for communities with fewer children it would be beneficial to schools for this measure to pass. "Acalanes is in a very affluent community, and has been lucky to have had a lot of support, but for less affluent communities, and communities with less children, sometimes the bond measures are overturned because they get 60%, but not two-thirds. It would be helpful to those communities if Proposition 26 passes," said Principal Keith Schmidt. Local parents seem to agree that because all bond measures have passed, there won't be much of a difference.

"All the bond measures for Acalanes have passed, and the only way our taxes will increase is if there is an increase in passed bond measures. If proposition 26 (had been) passed, there is a chance that more bond measures will be proposed due to the easier passage, but I wouldn't mind paying more taxes if it improved Acalanes," said one Acalanes parent. However, not everybody felt the same way as Acalanes parents. "I voted no because I didn't want to make it easier to raise taxes," said one voter leaving the polls.

"I think that it should've been passed, but that's easy for me to say because I don't pay taxes," said one anonymous



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Students protest Prop 22, also known as the Knight Initiative, outside of a polling booth on Super Tuesday.

junior. Many students agreed that proposition 26 should have passed.

With the failing of Prop 26, California remains one of four states that still requires a two-thirds majority on bond measures.

Prop. 21 (Passed)

This measure increases the punishment for gang-related felonies, home invasion, robbery, car jacking, witness intimidation and drive-by shootings. The measure also creates gang recruitment activities as a crime. It also requires that more juvenile offenders be tried in adult courts, that gang offenders to register with local law enforcement, require certain juvenile offenders to be held in local or state correctional facilities, expand the list of violent and serious offenses for which longer prison sentences would be imposed and counted under the "Three Strikes" law, reduce confidentiality protections for juvenile offenders, and change the types of probation available for juvenile felons.

Opponents and students of Acalanes feel that the measure goes too far. "It's pretty sad that lawmakers just consider all teens as gang members and delinquents. Just be-

cause some teens do stupid things, they create stereotypes about all of us," said a junior on the condition of anonymity.

"It's disappointing that lawmakers focus so much on imprisonment, instead of rehabilitation," said Leonard Johnstone, a representative of the California Probation Officers Association.

Prop. 22 (Passed)

This measure, also known as the Knight Initiative, defines a valid marriage in California as union between a man and a woman. It also establishes that a same-sex marriage out of state will not be considered valid in California. "Common law" marriages, where couples are considered legally married if they live together for more than seven years, do not apply to same-sex couples. Proposition 22 was one of the most controversial issues on the ballot.

"I can't believe it was passed, it's a blatant show of anti-homosexuality," said Acalanes alumnus Anne Kim, who voted absentee.

According to statistics released by the California Secretary of State, San Francisco was one of the only counties where the majority of residents voted against the proposition.

NUGGETS

A Fifth Dance for Some Cans

By Damon Diederich

Staff Writer

Acalanes students will soon be enjoying a fifth dance, thanks to hard work by the administration and Interact. This will be the first time Acalanes has a fifth dance. The dance will be sponsored by Interact instead of Leadership and will be organized by Interact. In order to gain admission to the dance, students will have to bring canned food instead of money. The food will be donated to the Contra Costa Food Bank. Principal Keith Schmidt said, "Our aim was to get students thinking about charity some time other than Thanksgiving or Christmas." The date set for the dance is April 29. The theme will be 20s mobsters. All the students of Interact agree that the dance is important because it promotes community service at a time when many forget it. "I am really enthusiastic about this dance because it will help the needy and be fun for the students at the same time," said Junior Lauren Ebe. Said dance organizer Heather Klurfeld, "It took a lot of hard work to do this, but it's worth it. It's for a good cause."

No More Sleeping In for Star Testing

By Kristy Mayer

Staff Writer

This year's Star testing policy was decided on in a meeting of the district testing coordinators on Thursday, March 2. Unlike last year, students who have opted not to take the Star test will have to remain on campus during the testing period, according to Sally Porter, the testing coordinator at Acalanes. This is simply because "It is a school day, so (students not taking the test) need to come to school," said Porter. The only other change made to the testing policy from last year to this year is that another 50-minute section has been added to the math portion of the test. This was a decision made by the state because they wanted to do more in-depth math testing, according to Porter. The school would also like to encourage students to take the Star test seriously. Although scores are not currently being recorded on student transcripts, it does affect how Acalanes is ranked. This ranking is something that colleges consider when looking over a student's application.

Acalanes Accolades

By Damon Diederich

Staff Writer

In the past month Acalanes students and groups have garnered many awards. Among the awards presented:

The Acalanes Model UN team went to the national conference at UC Berkeley and won an award for best Club delegation after attending the conference March 9-11. The group represented Lithuania in the conference, with seniors Sumi Kim, Mary Thomas, Daryl Wong, and John Shen earning commendations for their work, as well as seniors Nathalie de Leon and Vijay Sekhon winning the gavel for Security Council.

MUN advisor Ramsay Thomas was pleased with the delegation's performance at Berkeley: "We had a very good group go to the conference with a lot of awards between them. The competition here is not too fierce if you've done your work....Nathalie (de Leon) and Vijay (Sekhon) are especially impressive."

Three Acalanes students, Ashley Cowgill, Brianne Kennedy and Olivia Johnson, were selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.

Kennedy was nominated to go to the conference by Ms. Lindford, the Acalanes Chorus teacher. Brianne attended the conference in August 1999. "I really enjoyed the conference," said Kennedy. Upon her return, she gave the names of her teachers to the conference managers, who contacted them and asked them to nominate other students. Renate Crocker, the Acalanes German teacher then nominated Ashley Cowgill and Olivia Johnson, two of her students.

All the participants attended various events while at the conference, including simulations of congress, the Supreme Court and the executive branch. There were also lectures by many members of government, as well as opportunities to meet many famous officials, including the King of Spain and Press Secretary for the Clinton administration, Joe Lockhart. "I enjoyed all the activities," said Johnson. Ashley Cowgill said that "the conference was a lot of fun."

All of the Acalanes participants enjoyed the conference immensely and would recommend it to any Acalanes student.

Seniors Sumi Kim and Kathryn Gin were both honored by being selected to apply to the Presidential Scholar program. Only 2600 students are selected for this program and 141 will win awards and travel to the White House to meet the President.

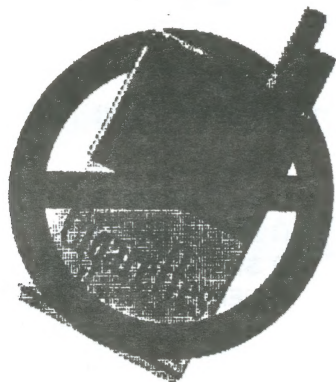
Both Kim and Gin were enthusiastic about being nominated and considered it a great honor.

Kim also moved up to the Area level of the Lions Club Speech Contest. "It's exciting to have a chance to win that much money," said Kim about her prospects of winning a \$19,000 scholarship in the national contest.

Senior Jessica Reid has moved up to the next level of the Rotary Club Speech Contest after surpassing two other Acalanes students at the club level.

Nathalie de Leon is also one of 13 national finalists in the Knight-Ridder National Journalism Scholarship Contest, for her exceeding excellence in her journalistic endeavors.

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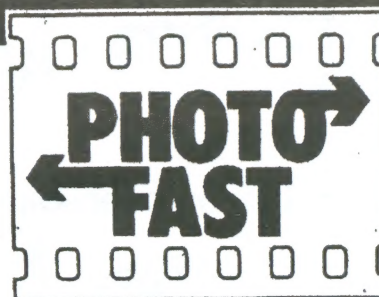
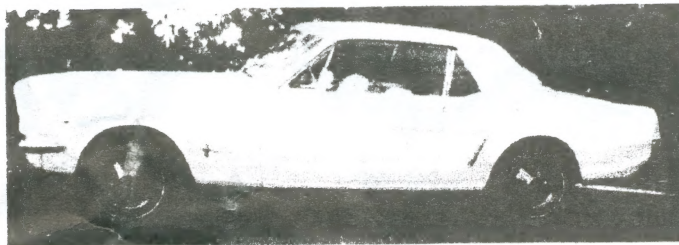
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A CALANES BLUEPRINT FEATURE

INSIDE



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ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Extracurriculars: Too Much Stress?

By Kelly Connolly
Staff Writer

Activities like Mock Trial, Academic Decathlon, Model UN, and others can mean hours of extra studying and competition for students who may already be stressed out and overburdened. Some people have questioned whether the benefits of these activities outweigh the negative aspects.

Acadec advisor Andrew Thompson voiced concerns about the nature of the competition and the material his club tested. He described a "kill or be killed mania circulating throughout the gym during the Super Quiz (a part of the competition)." He felt this atmosphere was intensely stressful and perhaps not too "healthy." He went on to say that some students may not enjoy the activity because it is so competitive.

Acadec advisor Matt Nolan agreed that "The quiz questions were difficult and highly specific. They weren't judging your analytical ability, but how well you could memorize facts." However, he felt that the students weren't in Acadec as a "boost for transcripts, but because they enjoy doing it."

Former Mock Trial coach Carla Garrett confirmed the level of tension during these types of activities, but emphasized their voluntary nature. "Yes, it's stressful and competitive, no question. But we all undertake it knowing the road ahead," she said.

She felt there were definite benefits to the activity. "You get really good skills which are applicable to a lot of things. You get the ability to speak on your feet, and a good grasp of legal concepts," said Garrett.

Senior Mike Kasper, who is involved in activities such as Acadec, Science Olympiad, and Model UN, said, "These academic extra-curriculars are, by nature, optional. If they become too much, then don't do them." He felt the activities are only as competitive as the student wants, and are also quite useful. "I know I've learned a ton in Academic

Decathlon. It's a lot of fun," said Kasper.

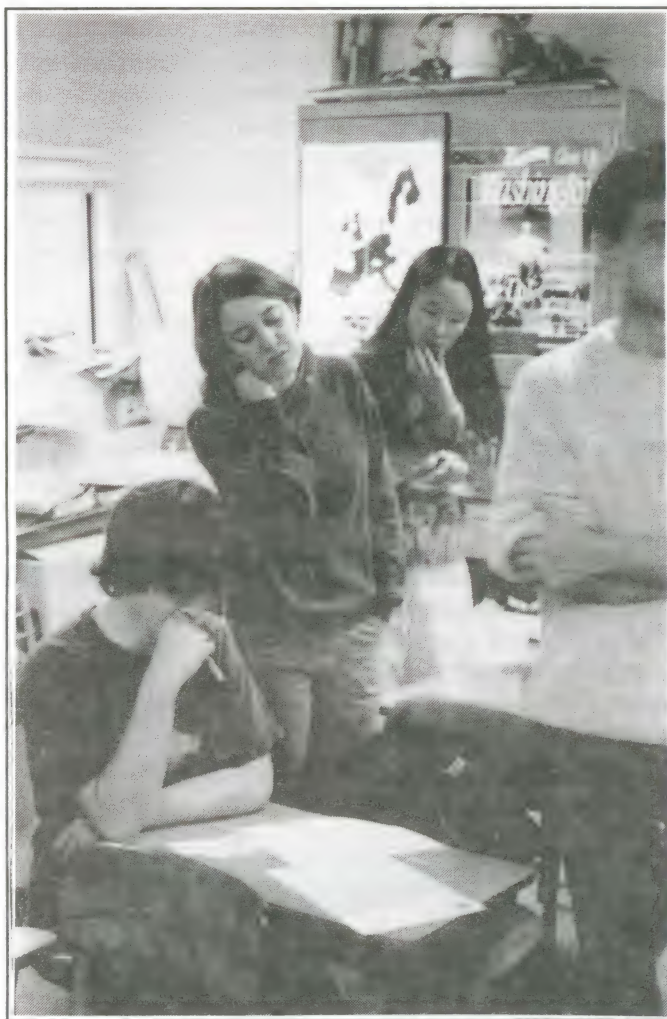
Although Thompson saw some merit in activities like essay writing and speech composition, he felt much of the material was lacking. "I just question the worth of having a kid memorize a number of facts that don't seem very practical," said Thompson.

Former Acadec advisor Marshall Pfeiffer agreed that some of the information could be seen as trivial if not viewed in a "larger context." On the whole, he thought the material worthwhile. "I generally like the material. I think it can be a lot of fun and very valuable. It can fill in some gaps in your knowledge," said Pfeiffer.

However, Pfeiffer maintained, "In our county it was getting to be more negative and competitive." He said a lot of the responsibility lies with the coaches to "maintain a balance...for the kids to realize that winning isn't everything."

According to Acalanes counselor Pat Johnson, generalizations can be made about some activities, but it's harder to make broad statements about the students who participate in them.

"I think the issue of academic extracurriculars and their pros and cons is highly personal to each student," she said. Johnson said



Sophomore Chris Eaton and seniors Mary Thomas and Sumi Kim, all Model UN members, prepare for the UC Berkeley Conference.

Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

that for students who have the time and resources available, research showed "that students who are engaged and connected to some extra activity at school tend to do better in school," said Johnson.

Junior Brianne Kennedy agreed with Johnson, saying, "It was hard to find a balance between responsibility as a student and what you'd like to do as a person." But still felt they were "a valuable experience."

MCCAIN VISIT

A Rally Cry for the Republicans

By **Nathalie de Leon**

News Editor

The sidewalk was surprisingly quiet as I walked towards the rally. I had expected a great gala, a huge commotion for McCain's 14:59 slot in his 15 minutes of fame two days before Super Tuesday primaries. Guided only by a few signs and button-clad workers, I made my way to the DVC gym with my friend, like secret cohorts on a mission, silently nodding to the other groups of people. We weren't all die-hard Republicans, but we all knew why we were there.

Filled with anticipation, we pushed past the protestors carrying signs emblazoned with anti-Prop 22 messages and entered the blindingly yellow gym. The crowd had divided itself into the senior citizens in the stands, too tired to stay on their feet, the reporters congregating around the cameras, and the younger people, such as myself, that were aggressive and audacious enough to push through the crowds to the front.

Maybe it was the politics; maybe it was the politician. For whatever reason, people came from all over the area to hear the "rogue" senator John McCain speak. Some were there in support, in awe of the veteran. Most were there out

of sheer curiosity, treating the man as a celebrity who had come to our humble community.

People quietly reflected, discussing politics and protestors among themselves and their friends. The 30 + Acalanes students sought each other out, forming a little core to represent our school in the front-center area of the crowd. The teenagers were too restless to sit still like the 60 and over group in the back. One overly-excited individual constantly tried to get a wave started in the crowd, each time only managing a smattering of amused middle-aged adults meekly throwing their hands halfway up to appease the loud, ram-bunctious teen. Two local high schoolers jumped up on stage, pulling up their shirts for the cameras to reveal that each had written, in big black letters on their chests, "Mc" and "Cain." One of them, Northgate student James Thomas, revealed himself as a second cousin of Al

Gore. "My grandfather is Al Gore's uncle. Just because I'm related to the guy doesn't mean I have to agree with his issues," said Thomas. The same group of boys tried to start a bit of crowd surfing, to no avail. Everyone else was starting to get annoyed that the great rogue was over an hour late.

To appease the crowd, campaign workers started passing out red, white, and blue pom-poms. Despite cynical cries of "Oh yeah, I want to be a cheerleader," everyone pushed forward to get one. I was immediately smooshed up to the front,



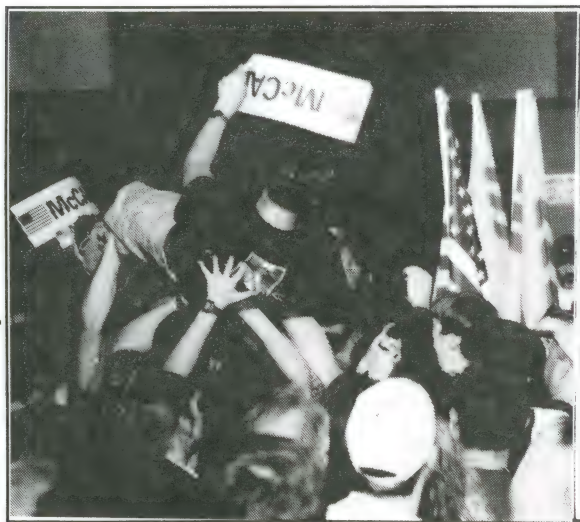
Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

A sea of American flags and McCain banners greeted the Senator as he entered the gym.

arms reaching around me to grab a pom-pom. Then the workers handed out small American flags and signs in praise of McCain, reading "VETERANS FOR MCCAIN," "STUDENTS FOR MCCAIN" and the simple, catchy "MCCAIN 2000."

Many there were not McCain supporters by any right. Some came to ask questions, only to be disappointed to hear that he would not be taking questions. Others came to help them decide on the candidate they would choose for Super Tuesday primaries. Most came for the novelty of seeing and possibly shaking the hand of the man whom they saw so much on television.

"(I came to) have a wild time.... I don't really believe in political parties," said AHS senior Zack Burnside. Pleasant Hill resident Jeff Brown said he was a registered Democrat, but he liked McCain because "he has courage and he doesn't follow the party lines.... I'd like to see him in person." Monte Vista senior JR Atwood said, "I just want to get a feel for the Republican side. Anything



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

James Thomas, a second cousin of Al Gore, got the crowd warmed up with a little crowd surfing.

MCCAIN VISIT

going on with the President is pretty cool."

One could detect a slight air of defeatism. I overheard remarks of "Bush is gonna beat him anyway" and "He'll never get the delegate votes, even if he does get the popular." Even the campaign workers themselves looked too tired to go on, wishing for that one glimmer of hope to save their dying candidate in the "Beauty Contest." California was escaping their grasp, and even those who claimed that McCain would save our nation understood what was to become the inevitable two days later.

But the excitement of meeting McCain overrode the pessimistic sentiments. The atmosphere was unlike any other. It was an amalgam of a rock concert and a cafe packed with pseudo-intellectuals. Everyone was drawn into the fanfare. Despite my best attempts to remain an objective reporter, I grabbed a bumper sticker, pom-pom, and flag and waved them all around.

California Secretary of State Bill Jones tried to keep us busy. He touted himself as the highest ranked member of the GOP in California, and called for all Republicans to rally around his choice of candidate to save their party.

As the senator finally walked in, the crowd was in a frenzy. The core of the GOP, the 60 and over crowd in the back, stood up to applaud. The only stone-faced individuals were the media, too stoic and self-important to cheer.

To the audience, every move had dignity, every remark was followed by enthusiastic cheers. The stump speech from the "Straight Talk Express" drew cheers from even the most cynical of the crowd.

"The Clinton-Gore administration debased every institution of government in 1996 after the scandal in Washington D.C.... Are you proud that the president of the United States rents out the Lincoln bedroom?...Are you proud that the vice president of the United States comes out to California, goes to a Buddhist monastery and asks monks to denounce their vow of poverty and pay hundreds of thousands of dollars

in campaign contributions so they spiritually commune with him? Are you proud when you saw the vice president of the United States look straight into the camera to say there was no controlling authority for what they did? No controlling legal authority for the Chinese money coming in, the Indonesian money...are you proud of that?" McCain stared into the crowd as they all shouted out a resounding "NO!"

It was more of a call for the Republican party than a call for candidacy. The speech was laced with the standard self-promotion and fanfare, the same old jokes and stories of his plane intercepting anti-aircraft artillery, but it was packed with anti-Clintonian democrat rhetoric. He cried out to bring dignity back into the White House, and to restore the office to its rightful place with respect and honor.

I waited and waited for the famous, or infamous, Death Star allusion, but it never came. Maybe deep down McCain knew that the force just wasn't with him.

The veterans stood by him with reverence. His family calmly waited behind him on stage, the picture of a political family—the clean-cut, intelligent looking, short-haired modern woman of a wife, the wonderbread son in the image of his father, the innocent but alert daughter, all tired, but brimming with pride.

At the end of the line, one man stood out. His shirt was untucked under his crumpled suit. He had Samsonite luggage under his bloodshot eyes. He hadn't shaved in a while, and his hair looked like it had suffered weeks of tor-



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

With his wife in the background, Senator McCain attempts to rouse up his troops before the primaries.

ment from neglect and frustration. He struggled to stay upright. His arms didn't know where to keep themselves. This, I smiled to myself, was the tortured genius, the unsung hero, the true brains of the operation that never got any press or recognition: the campaign manager.

I wished I could read his mind: "Should we go Reform? Should we join the Bush team? How many of these people actually like my guy? That girl in the third row keeps on shaking her head. Maybe the Vietnamese kids were a bit too much...."

The speech finished, and people scrambled to the front to shake the senator's hand. As my body got pushed to the front, I started to want to shake his hand. Not to abandon my own political beliefs, but to pay my respects to the man who had run a doomed campaign with dignity, and without any sign of regret.

PERINO PART 2

Superintendent's Impact Will Last

By Nick Allen and Lexi Matsui
Staff Writers

Dr. James Perino had spent a good part of his life working around schools when he arrived at the Acalanes High School District eleven years ago, yet he wasn't fully prepared for the task that would follow as the new Superintendent. Hired only a week before the school year started, Perino's first job as Superintendent was to save the district from going broke. Regrettably, this involved significant cut-backs in programming and left students with a six period schedule, while the time and energy that he spent to manage the current financial crisis deprived him of the contact that he desired with teachers and faculty.

Eleven years later, two parcel taxes have been passed with another one on the way, the schools are being rebuilt, technology is being updated, and the district as a whole has grown and prospered. Naturally, there are still problems that will be passed on for the next superintendent to solve, and the past years as superintendent haven't always run smoothly. Yet Perino has no regrets.

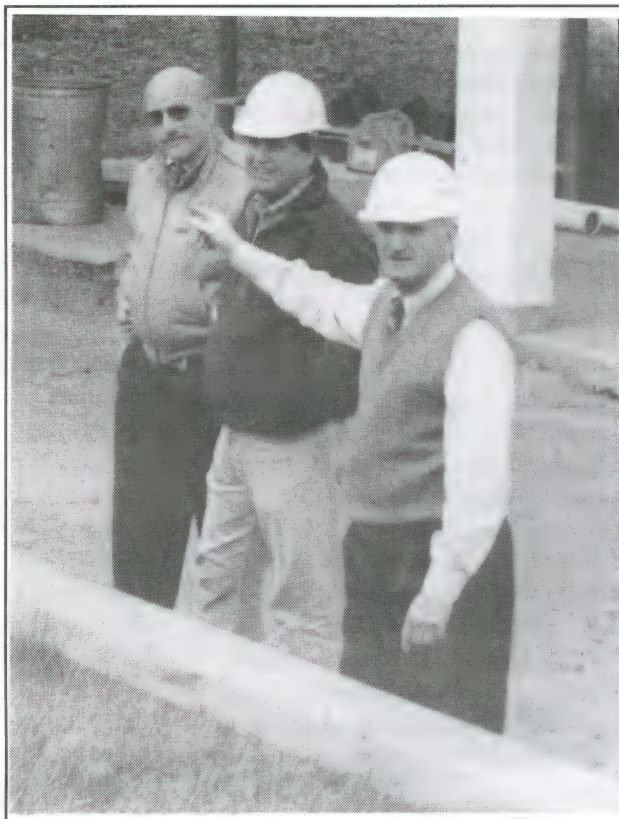
He acknowledges the dual role that he must play as both a superintendent and a politician, and understands that with so many conflicting needs within the district that he cannot always make everyone happy. "There is tremendous support within the community for education. As a result of this support, you have a whole group of people wanting certain things, but not necessarily the same thing. The political side of it is how you bring your constituents to understanding that some things might be more important than others," he says.

He emphasizes again and again the importance of contact, whether it be with the teachers and faculty, or with the students themselves, and that listening is key when it comes to decision making. "You'll find yourself in trouble when you stop listening, because you usually end up doing the wrong thing or doing something that nobody wanted done," he says. Perino also feels that the key to reform

and decision making is governed by the impact it will have on the students, and that his actions should be made to benefit the students despite criticism. "I remember when we were trying to get girls water polo. I carried the fight to the board, because we had over 100 girls that wanted to play water polo. I made that decision against a lot of people's advice that was saying we don't need it," he says.

Although he has no regrets, Perino still looks back in retrospect and wishes that he could have spent more time with the teachers and employees, rather than being stuck in the office. "If I could go back, I don't know what I would do differently other than spend more time with employees, get into the classroom more often, and be out at the sites more dealing with the minutiae that had to be dealt with during the first few years," he says. Similarly, he would have tried to get more people involved in the decision making earlier in his career in regards to layoffs and cut-backs in programming.

While Dr. Perino did make many gains for the district with the parcel taxes, improved facilities and technology, he feels that he wasn't able to materialize some of his personal goals. Upon entering the district, Perino had hoped to establish a more flexible class schedule for students where class length could be adjusted and students could utilize some of the resources that colleges offered. "There were more major reforms that we had to deal with at the time, but looking back I wish we had looked at those potential changes a little more," he says. He later adds that he would have liked to increase teacher work days, as well as restructure



Superintendent James Perino displays his leadership skills on the Acalanes construction site.

Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund

the classroom so that teachers could have more direct contact with their students.

With the election occurring in the next two months, Perino has a few words of wisdom for the new superintendent. He hopes that the new superintendent will be able to establish relationships with the teachers and faculty sooner than he was able to. He also hopes that the new superintendent will get the community more involved in education and the schools, and that the new facilities being constructed within the schools will be made accessible to the entire community. Finally, he would like to see the new superintendent keeping in touch with the students and the schools, and not spend his entire time locked up in the office. "The biggest joys I have is when I go to the campus first and don't go straight to the office. I'll come into the office at ten or eleven, and I'm just a whole different person."

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

35mm. Cameras Refuse to Die

Digital Faster/Cleaner But 35mm Still More Useful

By Nathalie Krastev
Staff Writer

Despite the infatuation some may have with the new technology of digital cameras, film cameras are not yet going the way of tyrannosaurus rex, and the prospects of them becoming just a museum piece in the next ten years are slim. In fact, experts in the field, ranging from photography schools, major publications, and film and camera manufacturers, all agree that the demise of film photography will not be occurring anytime in the near future.

Students, faculty, and community concerns about removing the current film photography program at Acalanes and replacing it with an all digital course, have made many people skeptical over whether or not the switch would prove to be beneficial to students.

Acalanes photography teacher, Kyle Wood said, "I don't know that it (digital photography) is a real art form."

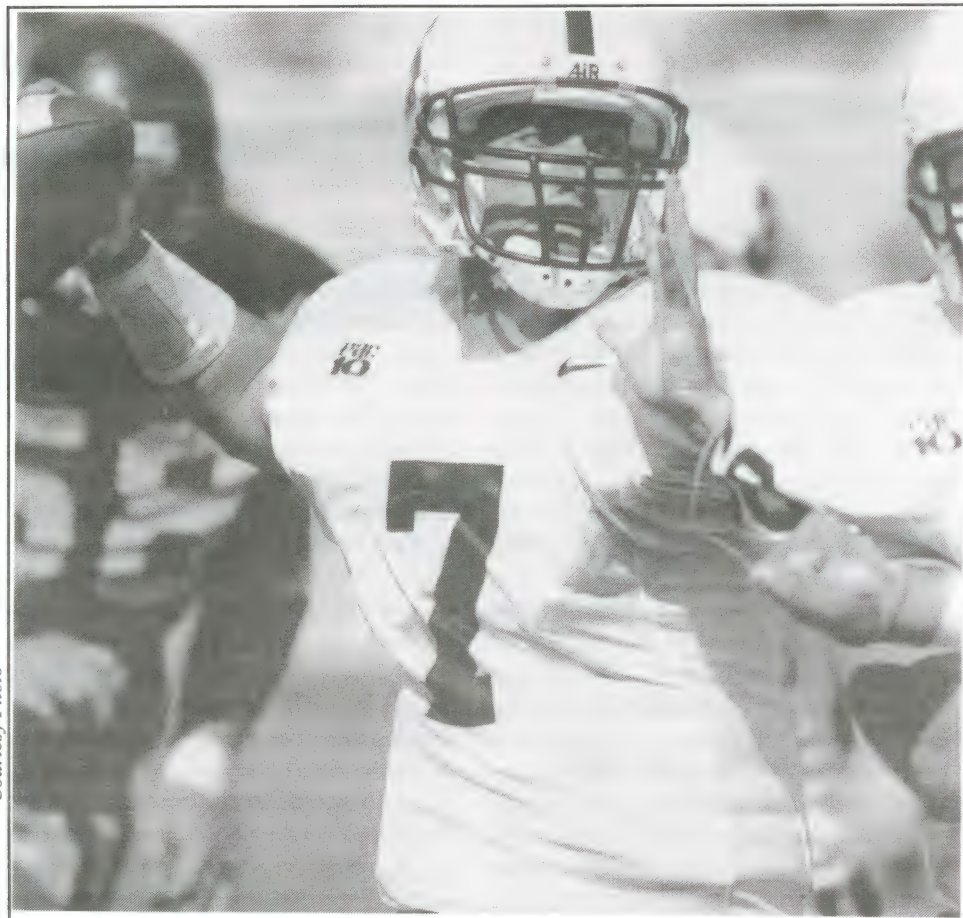
Fine Arts Department Chair, Rick Meyer has a similar opinion. He said, "I personally don't see digital photography as an art form. For me,

the art comes in when you can control the emotional content of the subject...The kinds of things that you need to control to effect people emotionally, you can't get from digital photography."

In a letter addressed to the Acalanes School District, Rolfe Horn, a graduate of Acalanes and Brooks Photo Institute, expressed his concerns for the replacement of traditional photography. He said, "Would you tell students to stop creating pictures in oil, acrylic, pastel or pencil and switch to the computer just because that medium is less messy and perhaps less time consuming? Why do the same to your photography students?"

Although digital cameras are being used more and more in the graphics industry, film cameras remain a key component in the professional production of pictures. In fact, according to Bill Kalis, technical director at Time magazine, film will never go away. "It will still have commercial use, but it will be border line dinosaur in five to ten years...I would assume that we (Time magazine) will never stop using film," he said.

Of course, digital photography does provide many advantages in the business world that film cameras do not. "It depends on what it is," said Kalis. "If it's a late-breaking deadline situation where we don't have time to process film, we might use digital. Or, if it were a simple task like taking a copy shot of something, we would use digital. It allows for speed...we can take the picture and within seconds it's in the computer. Within a few more seconds, it can be in production. It's



Courtesy Photo

Digital photos may be expensive, but this professional shot proves they can shine.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

an amazing thing."

By and large, the primary reason why some of the most notable magazine publications have not completely converted to digital is quality. "They've done a lot with digital, but it hasn't been to the extent where you get the same superb print that you can get from a film camera," said Mel Levine, photo equipment technician at Sports Illustrated magazine.

"Especially with sports photography, you have to have a picture that's really sharp and clear." Depending on the advancements of digital technology, Levine said, "In the next five or ten years, we'll change over."

Unlike magazines, most newspaper publications have recently been in the process of laying down their film cameras to digital. Kat Wade, a staff photographer for the San Francisco Chronicle, said, "16 out of 18 of our photographers are digital. We've been in the process of switching to digital for about nine months, which is when our first photographer went digital...I believe the main purpose of switching to digital is for spot news and getting later news into the paper more quickly."

Photographers at the chronicle also use their own lap top computers and modems to transmit their assignments from the field five minutes after they have shot it. As for the quality of digital cameras, Wade said, "For newspapers, digital is fine because you lose so much quality in a newspaper as it is, that you wouldn't notice the difference."

So, with the application of film cameras still out there, and the future of film cameras looking favorable, does it make sense for kids to stop receiving the traditional training? David Litschel, Director of Education at Brooks Photo Institute which teaches commercial photography, said that if he had to choose between teaching one or the other, he would chose digital because,

"The students can get a faster learning pace."

The only problem with that, said Litschel, is that schools would only be able to afford low-end digital cameras. "They will be doing no more than point and shoots and correcting it with the computer which is garbage in garbage out...If I were a teacher, I would want to hang in there with the 35mm. and the film while I embraced the digital on the other end."

Mr. Keith Schmidt, principal at Acalanes, believes that the effective-

"Film still is a good way to start, but I think it would be irresponsible to teach one without the other."

**--Stephen Lehmer, head
of the UCLA Art
Department**

ness of equipment depends on the ability of the photographer. "The quality of your equipment is important," said Schmidt. "But having said that, there's been some outstanding photographs taken with some low-end, very basic stuff. Much of it still comes down to one question - with your abilities, skills, and what you've been taught, are you able to maximize the potential of your equipment?"

Stephen Lehmer, head of the UCLA Art Department, Photography Area agrees with the educational benefits of combining both digital and film instruction. He said, "Film still is a good way to start, but I think it would be irresponsible to teach one without the other. You would be hurting your students by

not having them exposed to electronic digital options."

"I think people that have been in the darkroom are better at digital...Getting in the darkroom and studying the art of photography helps you a lot," Lehmer also said.

Pat Jensen, who has been in the publication business for about twenty-five years, and currently the production manager of Health Magazine, agrees that students need to learn photography in both methods. "Traditional photography is the beginning, learning steps. I think with that, you look at light and developing."

"I think traditional is better than teaching digital," said Wood. "I definitely think that you have to learn the basics and the dexteriors hands on before you start to learn the digital stuff."

The Cannon camera manufacturing company has been selling digital cameras for five years and has been selling 35mm. cameras since the thirties. According to the assistant marketing manager at Cannon, who wishes to remain anonymous, "Both digital and film cameras are in demand at this point so we are keeping up with both digital and 35mm."

Cannon does not foresee a time when film cameras will no longer exist. "I think they will stay forever," said Cannon's assistant marketing manager. "The uses of them may change but I think you'll still see 35mm. cameras in the market."

Kodak film manufacturing company also agrees that there is a future for film. One Kodak representative said, "Even if digital gets better, film will always be around because people are always going to want something that they can hold in their hand."

Obviously, film cameras will not become a relic of the past any time soon. But, with the popularity of digital growing rapidly, they are definitely in for some heavy competition.

BOCHTE PART 2

Q and A With an Air Force Fighter

By Katie Burroughs and
Lauren Gong

Staff Writers

(Part 2 of a two-part series)

Acalanes graduate Dana Bochte started at the United States Airforce Academy by getting on a bus. "...Everyone chills and we are all talking and then all of a sudden this huge guy got on and screamed 'SHUT UP!!! Get on the front third of your seat RIGHT NOW!!!' Then his friend, who had gotten on behind him, said in the sternest voice I have ever heard, 'Things have changed now, people.' I just remember thinking, 'What the hell am I doing here?' Then you get to what we call the bozo block...it's a bunch of footprints painted on a square of cement...and all these Cadres are outside yelling and hitting the sides of the bus so hard it is rocking on its wheels...I thought the bus was going to fall over. And you get out and stand on these feet and learn really fast how to stand at attention. I knew it was just the beginning, and I hated it already."

Every morning during Basic Training she woke up to Guns 'n' Roses playing "Welcome to the Jungle...it gets worse here every day..." with a Cadre screaming and kicking her door.

Now, Cadet Dana Bochte has only 14 days left until Recognition, or the end of her first year of training.

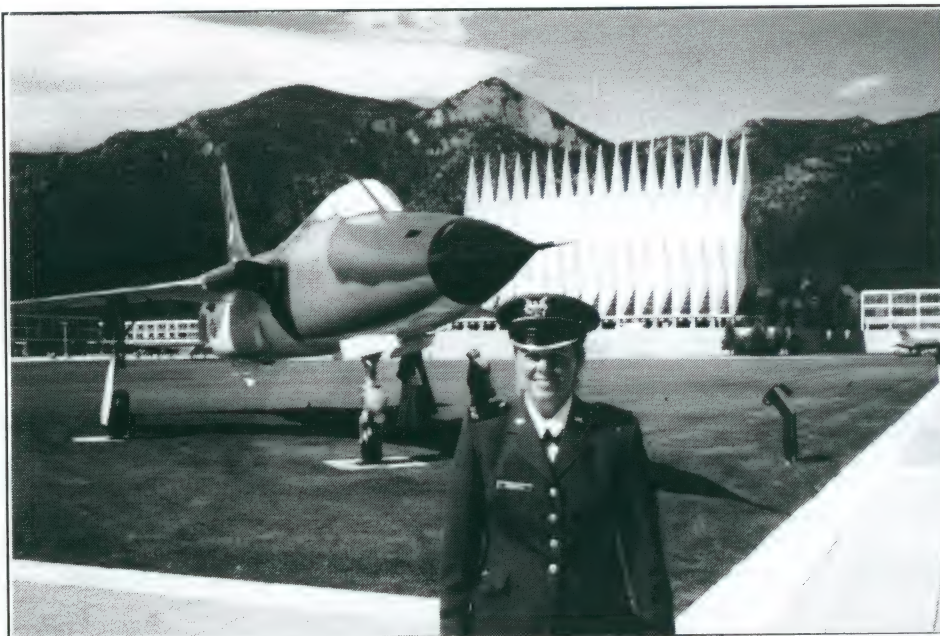
But, until then she still has to wear a raincoat in the shower, do 13 push-ups every time she enters or exits a room (because her squad number is 13), walk down the left side of the hall, eat at attention, walk at attention, and greet all superiors in the proper format.

The following is an interview with Dana:

Katie: What is the most recent gruesome feat you have had to perform?

Dana: A guy in my squad greeted our training officer incorrectly and they had us all in a front leaning rest for twenty minutes yelling knowledge and getting yelled at and doing really slow, really hard push-ups. It sucked and I am still sore from it.

K: Is it getting any easier?



A proud Dana Bochte stands tall in front of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

D: You are so tired around here it is really hard to improve, but god help you if you lose anything.

K: How many people are staying at the end of this year?

D: We started with 1350 and now we are below 1000 now, I think.

K: How are the other girls doing?

D: They are doing good...one [girl] in my squad, who I don't really get along with, "hurt" her foot and is now out of all training.

K: You don't really think she hurt it?

D: I think we are all hurt in some way. I could probably go down there and whine and get out of stuff too, but I have pride.

K: How does that effect her future in the squad?

D: People notice. It probably bugs me the most because I am the only girl getting trained and the guys forget that I can't do 20 pull-ups or run a six minute mile, so it is hard on me.

K: What about girls in the other squads?

D: We are earning it the hard way...she is getting off easy.

K: Do most people go to the academy for the prestige?

D: I guess so...most come because we want to be officers and we want the biggest challenge we could find...this is it.

K: Did you go to the academy because you wanted to fly or because you were interested in defending your country?

D: Both. I want to serve my country by flying.

K: Do people support each other?

D: The pimps don't. They want to look the best, but more importantly they don't want to do anything wrong. They pass off blame and tell stuff to upperclassmen about classmates...to get friends in trouble and keep themselves out.

K: Is snitching a big issue?

D: No so much snitching as not supporting classmates when they mess up...like the other day my friend Wendell messed up in the halls and I ran out to support him (and got my ass whupped) and I saw a couple of our classmates walk right by...that's a pimp.

K: Do you hang out with guys or girl predominately?

D: Both...mostly guys cause there's not a lot of girls here...and the guys are a lot more fun to be around usually.

Courtesy Photo

A CALANES BLUEPRINT OPINION

Correction...

On page 26, Blueprint mistakenly reports that the Dons basketball team lost to Pinole High School. In actuality, the Dons lost to Piner High School 68-63 in the NCS playoffs. We apologize for the misprint.

Blueprint

March 17, 2000

Page 16

BLUEPRINT EDITORIAL

Whom Are We Serving Anyway?

The United States of America is a nation and a society unique in human history. Never have the ideas of liberty and democracy taken a firmer grip than in our great country. The spirit of rugged individualism, personified in leaders like Benjamin Franklin and Teddy Roosevelt, shaped our country decisively as it became older and stronger. This independence, when combined with our democratic traditions, has created a truly remarkable culture.

Although it has its dark corners, like every nation, America has proved to be a center of benevolence and kindness. Throughout our history, we have traditionally extended a hand to the less fortunate, both internationally, as well as within our borders. The concept of community service is distinct in America. Pursuing something greater than self-interest has always been a hallmark of our country, especially for American youth.

But recently, in what could be called the post-war era, we have seen the rise of technology and the coming of unprecedented prosperity, upset the chief pillar of community not only across America, but the entire Western world. Mother Teresa put it perfectly when she stated that while Americans are materially wealthy, they are among the most spiritually impoverished peoples in the world. Images of frustrated, tired people growing alienated from each other and from society seem to be our cultural norm.

The rise of consumerism, hedonism, and narcissism, punctuate this reality even further.

This has had a startling effect on the youth of America. Once known for courage and ambition, we now seem lost in a hostile, self-serving world. To some, we lack the character of our distinguished predecessors, like our grandparents, who endured the hardship of the Great Depression and the Second World War. The feeling that young Americans today, with few exceptions, would not lift a finger to aid anyone or anything other than themselves is not an uncommon one. The idea of community service, of strengthening social and personal bonds through generosity, seems lost upon our generation.

The response to this downward spiral is well intentioned but horribly misguided. It has manifested itself across America, including here in Lafayette. The pseudo-solution is the mandatory community service requirement far too many schools are adopting as part of their curriculum. In increasing numbers, students are being forced to do community service in order to receive a passing grade in an academic class.

As this becomes a more and more prevalent trend, we must remind ourselves that the government best functions as a regulatory agent and not as an active participant in life. The idea that schools can mandate community service is as incompatible with

American culture as is the individual dependency that it begets. The greatness of our country was built not upon centralized, authoritarian government, as was Europe. Rather, as stated before, we are a nation of individuals held together by common principles, not government.

It must be understood that whether it be through religious organization, the Boy Scouts, or neighborhood volunteer groups, the benevolence and charity of the American people has always been self-motivated. Our past stands as testimony to this important reality. Unfortunately, this appears lost on those who seek to force altruism on the youth of America.

Generosity of the heart and of the spirit is not a homework assignment to be labored over and regurgitated on a test. Those who think it so are sadly mistaken. A program based on such vapors is doomed to failure, in spirit, if not in fact.

Futuristic visions of a tyrannical, Orwellian government are not on the horizon, but the death of what we call "Americanism" is.

Our generation will one day realize the emptiness of self-indulgence, and the vacuum of apathy. Like awakening from a long sleep, we will shed the darkness and move forward to a revival of the American spirit. And when we do, we will see reborn, the sense of brotherhood that has made this country truly great.



CITIZEN SAM

But What A Campaign It Was

By Sam Cunningham
Opinion Co-Editor

I'm sitting in my darkened living room. Rain pours down outside. The television is on, but the volume is muted. Sitting at his anchor desk, Brian Williams looks like a mime — mouth moving a million miles a minute, but no sound coming forth. I glare at him, trying to read his lips, but with little success. I manage to pick out the phrase "smashing defeat." The picture of John McCain that fills the screen a second later finishes the story.

It's the evening of "Super Tuesday," the do-or-die presidential primary when half the nation votes for their choice. The results are in. The news is bad for McCain.

The senator has done poorly, only winning a few tiny states. But Texas Governor George W. Bush has essentially secured the Republican nomination by taking California, New York, Ohio, and every other state with a population greater than room temperature.

I let out a deep sigh. McCain has been eliminated from the race. The inevitable announcement should come within a few days. It's over. We had lost.

As I watched the election results that black Tuesday evening two weeks ago, I had felt a fond wave of memories sweep over me. Like a sideshow, all the good times I'd had during the past eight months of the McCain campaign went through my mind.

I remembered signing up for an experimental phone bank during the early stages of the campaign. I, along with thousands of other online users, was e-mailed a list of ten New Hampshire voters to call and win over to the McCain camp. I had a blast at it — ringing up total strangers and chatting with them about the senator's proposals, or just racking on Bush. The one I'll remember forever was a very drunk man who insisted that he was going to vote for the Fonz, no matter who they nominated.

I remembered going to the California Republican Party (CRP) convention in Burlingame the weekend following McCain's 19-point whipping of Bush in New Hampshire. The place was packed with McCainiacs, as we gave the Bush-

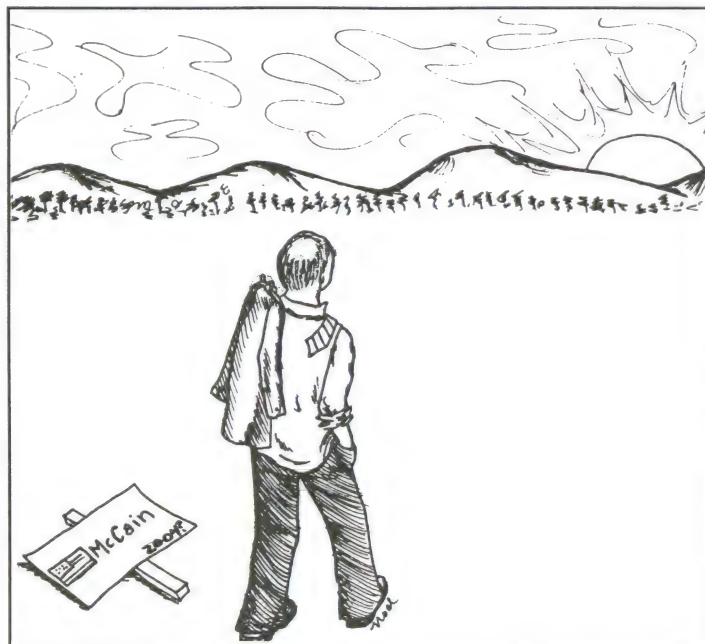
endorsing CRP elite a new understanding of "barbarians at the gate." At the conference, the differences between the McCain teenagers and the Bush teenagers was stark. By and large we McCainiacs were all casually dressed, easy-going, friendly kids (including all the hot chicks at the place). By comparison, our Bush counterparts were almost entirely uptight, acne-covered, giggling little nerds in three-piece suits.

I remembered sneaking into the press conference after the convention, my Blueprint tape recorder functioning quite well as a press pass. As I stood ten feet from John McCain, recording the whole thing, the guy from the *Los Angeles Times* was exchanging glances with the KCBS reporter, presumably about the youthful appearance of yours truly. I gave them a nasty look and they turned back to the senator.

I remembered many other events, too numerous to be mentioned here. I saw myself losing a bet with Mr. Freeman about the outcome in South Carolina, and almost having to publicly sing Britney Spears as a result. I saw myself throwing down the paper and dancing in the library after a key win. I saw myself mocking some hapless freshmen who dared to laugh at my campaign button. I saw myself leaning out the window of my car in the pouring rain, waving a McCain 2000 sign at passing vehicle.

But most importantly, I remembered meeting John McCain.

The campaign scheduled a rally at DVC on the Sunday before Super Tuesday, and a large group of Acalanes students attended (see page 10 for the full story). After McCain had finished his rousing speech, the wildly enthusiastic crowd pushed forward to try



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

and grab an autograph or handshake.

Thinking ahead, I struggled out the back of the mosh pit and then ducked past the security to position myself right by the exit. . . on the inside of the crowd barrier.

Slowly, McCain worked his way down the line towards the door, until finally, he was standing right next to me. As numerous outstretched hands waved for attention, he looked up and saw me standing there. His hand came forward. I took it and slowly shook. I struggled for words, then said: "Sir, you're a real inspiration to the youth. We're with you all the way." He seemed to consider this for a moment, then looked me in the eye and said, "Thank you young man. It's good to have your support." As I stepped aside so he could pass, I told him "Thanks for coming out...thanks for coming to see us." He smiled and nodded. Then he was gone, whisked out the door and into the night.

I grab the remote and turn the TV off. The room goes dark. I get up from the couch and walk over to the window. Out on the front lawn, my white "McCain for President" yard sign stands out against the dusky street. I walk over and open the front door. The wind is blowing hard. A powerful gust of air sways the towering trees. The sign never wavers.

PROP. 22**Prop 22...The End of the Conservatives**

By Charlie
Massie
*Opinion Co-
Editor*

Two days ago, if someone were to have asked me which political party I was most affiliated with, I would have said, without a doubt, that I was a strong Republican that had few wavering political views. With the recent Mar. 7 elections, I have become ashamed to be a member of the Republican Party--a party that is set in trying to desperately relive the past, and unfortunately for everyone, not progress into the future.

If an individual were to take a step back and look at the past 200 years, one would see that, in general, society has gone from a more conservative view of the world to a more liberal one. Two hundred years ago it was almost unheard of for anyone to show skin while engaging in social festivities. Today the social norm is to expose as much skin as possible. One hundred and fifty years ago society felt that it was okay to enslave an entire race of people, and 100 years ago people thought that the notion of voting rights for women was ludicrous. Yet today we all, at least the more enlightened ones, know that these primitive notions were and are, completely wrong.

However, as one takes a look at present-day American society, an individual begins to realize how despicable the position of the social

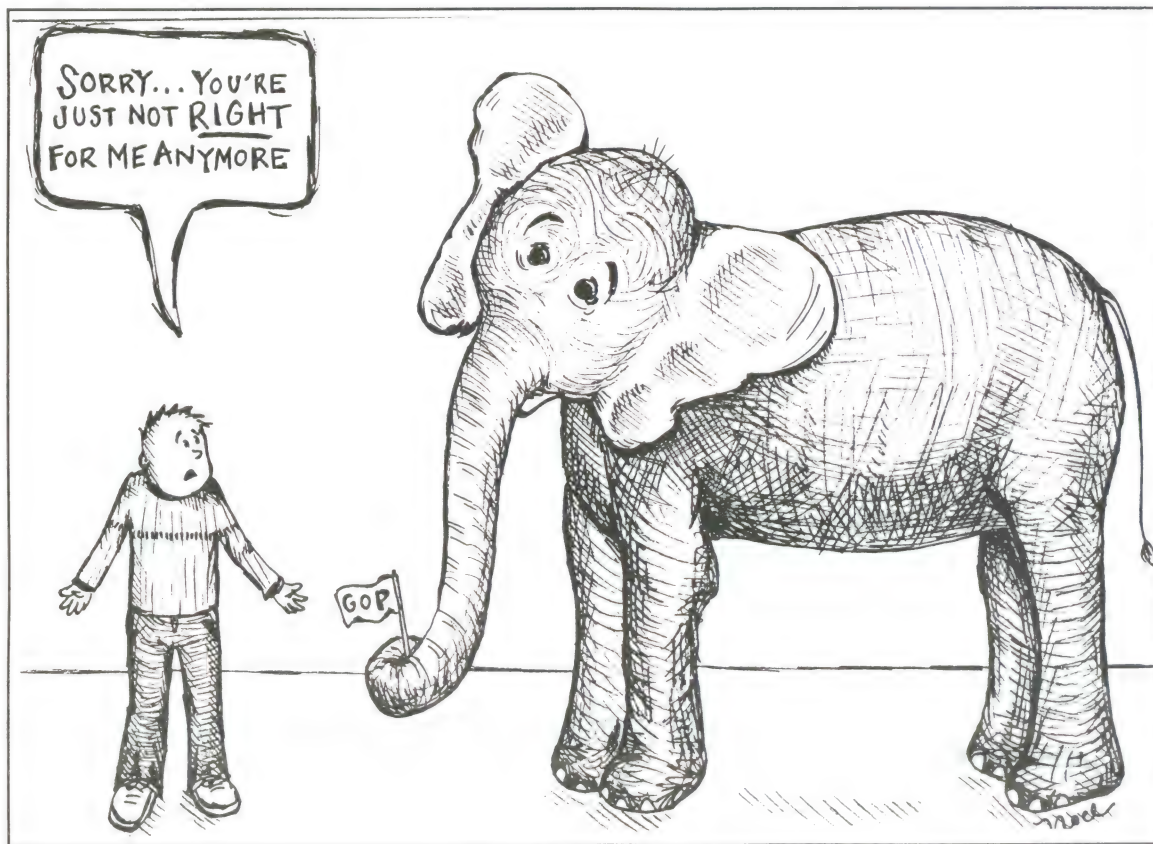
conservative is. For all of those who don't care about elections: the latest one on Mar. 7, 2000 included a proposition that intended to make gay marriages illegal in California--completely, forever.

First of all, isn't marriage supposed to represent the coming together of two people who are in love with one another and who plan to be with each other forever? Why is it right for us to say that a union between two people of the same sex is completely wrong?

In the United States of America, just because an individual disapproves of a safe and realistic life style, nothing gives them the right to arbitrarily harm the life-style of millions of Americans because they don't understand this particular way of living. Are not all Americans granted freedoms under the Constitution to the preservation of individual rights?

Last time anyone checked, they were. So why is this 10% of society not being given those rights?

At first glance, most ignorant people would brush this proposition off (along with a homophobic derogatory comment) as actually being a beneficial proposition. Yet what that person does not realize is that he or she just stepped on the hopes and dreams of 10% of our country's population. The key fact that people don't realize is that gay people exist as part of our society's genetic makeup. They are a part of who we are. It is ignorant and arrogant conservative people like the supporters of this proposition who fail terribly to recognize the reality of our world. This obliviousness to our world's reality is what has caused me to be ashamed of this political party whose days, I am sorry to say, are numbered.



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

PRO/CON

Are Fans' Rights on the Fringe?

By Danielle Cooke
Staff Writer

Although the actions taken by the administration this year have been overwhelmingly strict and uncalled for, perhaps the new sportsmanship rule isn't that unfair.

The rush of excitement and pulsing energy that the fans feel in the stands is completely understandable. Students go out to support their team, their school, their friends. Everyone has a right to get worked up and rowdy, but the rowdiness has stepped up to another level.

If the student body decided to wait and drink after the game, the rush of adreniline may be slightly less rambunctious. It is less likely for a student to get in trouble if the ridiculing was kept to a minimum. But even suspension after suspension cannot change the decisions of the student body.

While most people have a competitive nature, the use of bad language and fights are not appropriate for the sports arena. The game lies in the hands of the athletes, not the mouths of the fans. A game should never be determined by the class clown; it should be determined by the will of the players. No one actually realizes what it is like to be out there.

Imagine being a player. Imagine taking the court and wanting to dominate, to focus, to win. But while concentrating on the game you hear obscenities yelled by the lazy students who you know couldn't last through five jumping jacks. What right do they have to yell at you while the sweat pours down your head as you give up your Friday night to play the game you love. It becomes degrading. And after a while it is distracting, annoying and disrespectful.

I am not saying we shouldn't be able to support our teams. But we should use our energy in a fashion that is supportive. Yell when we get the rebound, scream when we score the goal, jump up and down after the touchdown pass is complete. Have a good time, show school spirit, and be loud. And just when the words "You suck! You stupid @\$%!" Think about how you would feel if that was said to you.

But if you are the kind of person that loves to start trouble and cause controversy wait until after the game. Then you can call Nick Enzweiler, Joey Keepberman and Amy Botto whatever you want.

By Kevin Medeiros
Staff Writer

During the past few months many questions have arisen about the way fans conduct themselves in the stands. There has been a lot of talk about restricting what fans can say and do while at a game. If a fan's right to cheer and be loud when their team is up big or just needs a boost to get it going is taken away then many fans may not even show up at the games.

Another problem with restricting what fans do is that it is giving them a message that when a few people act up, it makes them responsible. This is just plain unfair. Plus fans play a large role in the game and no one can really say what it is but it always seems to give the team that little edge when their fans are cheering extra hard.

If restrictions are put on what fans can cheer then a lot of the fans may not want to come to the game to support their team because one of the main reasons people go to sporting events is to immerse themselves with the upbeat and exciting atmosphere.

If there were limitations on how fans have to act then going to the game just wouldn't be as fun. Plus a lot of fans just cheer because they have a lot of school spirit and which would just be saying that during a rally students have to keep quiet.

Would it really be fair to punish the entire school if a few people started to fight and behave badly during a game? No. That is why it is not fair to tell fans to calm down when only a few are causing problems. Most fans behave in a very disciplined fashion and refrain from obscene or offensive behavior. Most fans just sit in their seats and yell when their team scores and scream when their team wins.

One aspect of a sport is talent, another is teamwork (in some sports), and another is the fans and the atmosphere they project on the game. Isn't it most often considered to be an advantage to be playing a home game because you have more fans there to support you by cheering and routing you on.

It seems that we have cheerleaders for a reason: to get the fan siked up so that the players will be siked up to and will perform better. Plus when a person sees that a lot of fans that came to the game to support his team they will want to do better to impress the fans. Especially if the player has friends, parents or relatives in the stand because the player will really want to put on a show for them.

Eighteen Candles.....

By **Andria Flakoll**

Co-Editor-in-Chief

For 18-year-olds the privilege to vote is perhaps the only one parents happily except. Smoking starts the deterioration of their children's lungs. Lottery tickets waste their children's money, and porn perverts their children's innocence. Just to top it off, now that their kids are legally considered adults parents have no legal right to tell their kids what they can and cannot do, but they try.

Ironically, all these privileges are given to 18-year-olds because they are now old enough to handle the responsibility. They have had 18 years to become educated and wise, and now society is letting them loose. The trouble is that most parents aren't.

This is especially true when it comes to voting. Some parents have this petty need to control their children's political viewpoints, when they should be encouraging their children to become their own

people.

Eighteen-year-olds are expected to know enough about the world to vote intelligently. To some parents this translates to: 18-year-olds are expected to know enough about their parents' political viewpoints in order to vote the exact same way.

Children can't escape their DNA. They will forever be connected to their parents in more ways than one, but they will probably respect their parents more if their parents support their own individualism. This means encouraging their children to form their own opinions and lives.

Perhaps their child might choose a different religion, join a different political party, or go to a different college. These decisions should be applauded, not criticized.

At least their children are taking the time and initiative to care about religion, politics, or education.

Other parents might not be so lucky.

The best way to encourage children to form similar views and practices as their parents is to let them decide for themselves. Forcing them to feel or believe in a certain thing will only make them rebel.

Probably the biggest change in the lives of most 18-year-olds is leaving home for college. This is where some parents really get desperate. They try to control their children's activities up until the day of departure, and for what. A last feeling of control? A last chance to determine what is and is not safe?

The things some parents might see as dangers the summer before college will be the same things their children will be doing when they get to college. If a parent has raised their child to be a smart, wise individual, the child will make good decisions. Trying to shield them from the dangers of the outside world will only make them less prepared to handle it.

Eighteen has a certain significance. It's high time that some parents recognize it.

Cable TV or Desks? Tough Call....

By **Hannah Hens-Piazza**

Co-Editor-in-Chief

The recent installation of cable TV into just about every classroom at Acalanes is a really disturbing concept to me. True, students can now enjoy the benefit of being able to watch TV whenever the teacher deems necessary. But why?

When I think of the struggles some schools in our state have to go through just to have basic classroom materials like books or chalk, I am appalled that our school is spending money on luxuries like cable TV.

Acalanes is an extremely well-equipped high school. There is at least one computer in every classroom. Some classrooms have several. And most of these are I-Macs, which the district was able to provide to every teacher at Acalanes at the beginning of this year. Just about every classroom also has a TV and a

VCR, so students can watch informative videos during class when necessary. We have a computer lab with internet access, internet-connected computers in the library, and photography darkrooms. Acalanes is truly a state-of-the-art place to go to high school, and it is not alone. Local schools Campolindo, Miramonte, and Las Lomas are also well-equipped high schools.

So why can't all schools be like these? Just within California, there is such an obvious uneven distribution of money for the schools. The classic example of this is Oakland, where the schools are headed downhill because of a lack of money and resources.

But what I can't understand is how Acalanes can spend money on arguably trivial things like cable TV when I'm sure the district is fully aware that right on the other side

of the tunnel there are schools that can't afford enough desks for all the students.

But what is a solution for this problem? Though I don't think Lafayette is responsible for saving the rest of California's schools, I also don't think the idea of working together for change is too off-the-wall. What is the district officials from every school got together to work as a team toward improving and equalizing the education system in California?

Education should not be a competition. If anything, education should be a way of uniting young people and the people who teach them.

I definitely do not blame Lafayette or Acalanes for being more wealthy or well-supplied than some schools. I only suggest that we work with other schools in our state to give a little more balance to the funding of public schools in the state.

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Blueprint

March 17, 2000

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MILLIONAIRE

Who Really Wants To?

By Peter Deng

Copy Editor

Millionaire and marriage—the two words strike such a harmonious chord. These days, the two concepts go together like husband and wife. And it is such a shame. The nature of marriage has been tainted; the sanctity is gone.

As of late, two people and a TV station have been responsible for a large part of marriage's degradation—Rick and Darva and Fox. The show *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?* is as bad as it gets. Marriage is reduced to gold-digging: a woman digging for wealth, and a man desperate to dig for...um...something else. "Multi-millionaire" Rick Rockwell sits in a separate

room, choosing his love through the intimacy of a cathode-ray tube. Frankly, that's probably the only place where he can get his love. BOY, that's a PLAY on words if I've ever seen one!

Well, just when you thought it couldn't get worse, it did. The rich Rockwell apparently sells leaky condos, and lives in a shanty, box-like one-story house. Maybe he spent his millions fighting to revoke the restraining order put on him. But it was very generous of him to buy pizza for all the reporters swarming his house.

But Rockwell might have better squandered his denero on glasses. If he was supposed to pick the prettiest bride, boy is he blind. Maybe if he were looking at the female's faces, the

choice would have been better.

So it goes. They say "I do" and embark on their honeymoon. But can it be called a honeymoon if the man gets no honey? Normal newly weds are inseparable, but Rick and Darva were very separable. In fact, they didn't sleep in the same room. And the multi-millionaire was on the move again. He was seen dining with another woman. The new woman must've forgotten her vision correction apparatus.

So is that marriage? Is it matrimony or sending the wrong message? The union of money and matrimony is detrimental to the American education system.

Little Johnny no longer goes to school to learn about froggies and the rain forests in which they live. Instead, he picks up little tidbits and factoids that he can use on ABC's *Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?*

He will remember that there are exactly 620 species (526 subspecies) of froggies living in the rainforest, which is disappearing at a rate of 65.225 million acres per annum, and exactly 64.2256 million acres every leap year, excluding leap years divisible by 100, but including every 4th century. Johnny needs to be educated. He wants to be prepared for the real world. He wants to be a millionaire.

Then he jumps a few channels to Fox. The same little Johnny wants to be affluent; not to help the poor, nor to teach the next generation, nor to help the country, but to fly to Vegas, sit behind an opaque fiber-glass wall, and choose his significant other from the closeness of a TV monitor. Johnny wants to be a multi-millionaire so that 50 members of the opposite gender—who all look alike, of course—will flock to his calling.

But that is only his dream. It'll never really happen. Come on, leaky condos and honeymoons don't mix to make a good marriage.

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MUSICAL PREVIEW

Passionate Kisses Delivered to AHS

By Phil Peyron
Staff Writer

Love, laughter, passion, and song. Are these words you would usually associate with school? Maybe not, but for a short time at Acalanes, you can fit all of these into one evening and still have time to finish your homework.

The Acalanes music department production of *Kiss Me, Kate* is under way in the Acalanes small gym. This classic Broadway musical is a pleasure to the senses from the minute the curtains open up to the final bow.

The musical centers around Fred Gram (Bas Howard), an actor who is trying to present a performance of *The Taming of the Shrew*. On the opening night, Gram finds out that Bill Calhoun (Jake Nicholson) is \$10,000 in debt after assuming Fred's name. Gram also learns that his ex-wife Lilly Vanessi (Megan Hamaker) wants to run away with an older man named Harrison Howell (Mike McNeil) even though she has a lead role in the play. When Matt Eaton and Blake Quinn come

in as gangsters ready to collect their money, Gram decides to play along with the charade. He says that he will pay the gangsters if they make sure that Vanessi finishes the play. What follows is a hilarious confusion as the problems backstage filter into the Shakespearian performance.

It's difficult to say what the best part of this performance is. The acting was superb, the singing was beautiful, the choreography was well planned and accurate, and the

symphony sounded straight out of Carnegie Hall. Each of these complimented the other perfectly, despite the poor acoustics of the small gym.

Although this is chorus teacher Bruce Lenhagher's first musical at Acalanes, his expert direction makes it look like he has been doing it for years. He was also lucky that he got to work with such a great cast.

Bas Howard, Meghan Hamaker, Grace Woods, and Jake Nicholson, as well as the rest of the cast, should be commended for their talent.



Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund

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Performance



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Best Sappy Performance



DARVA CONGER in
"I Never Wanted to
Marry a Millionaire"

Best Action Sequence



ANYTAPING OF
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Best Choreography



WWF/Wrestle Mania"

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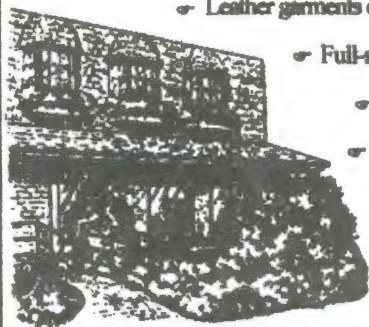
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What's going on here?

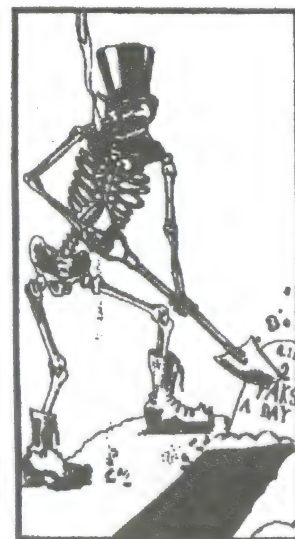
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SATIRE

The Tragedy of Game Shows

By Nathalie de Leon
News Editor

Back in the good old days of television (three or four years ago for our generation), NBC was still at the head of the sitcom wars, Dave was still better than Jay, the highest rated shows were *Frasier*, *Friends*, *ER*, and the *X-Files*, and game shows were slightly esoteric with that nice tinge of suspense at the end of each game.

A few weeks ago, I got sucked into watching one of those new wave millionaire game shows. Seeing parody after parody of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* I decided that these would someday become an integral part of a quickly disintegrating culture, and I needed to at least be slightly conversant with their workings to be deemed one of the culturally literate.

The guinea pig of choice was NBC's recently-resurrected *twenty-one*.

The premise: take the show that has caused NBC the most grief and the entire industry the most infamy, dumb it down, color it up, and stick it back on the lineup. And for that extra bit of class, change the name from the numeric 21 to the alphabetical *twenty-one*. Take that, Regis Philbin.

You may remember *twenty-one* from the 1993 movie *Quiz Show*. The show was found to be rigged, as contestants like Columbia professor Charles Van Doren were given the answers before the show. After extensive investigations, NBC escaped serious reprimand with a convenient scapegoat fall boy and pulled then-named 21 off the air.

They rigged the show because they wanted a contestant to garner favor with the audience, like a big brother winning for the family on the small screen. If the viewers feel closely connected with a champion, they have more reason to tune in the following week. Also, as one contestant wins more and more money, people take notice of the exorbitant cash prizes and the show gets higher ratings.

What an excellent idea to bring the show back, the single largest source of scandal to the National Broadcasting Company. I guess scandal sells.

Same format, same booths, same scor-

ing. And how did they put the face of dignity on the show? Ah yes, Maury Povich.

The sad part was the ridiculously blatant dumbing-down of the once-challenging show. The questions used to be difficult enough to entertain and, more importantly,

twenty-one is back to its old tricks, rigging the contestants to give out a big cash prize and draw in the ratings. But now they let the audience do it for them. The live audience gets to choose one of two challengers for the reigning champion based on a name and a sound-byte bio. In the particular show

that I watched, the audience got to choose between a middle-aged Midwest professor of history with male-pattern balding who is currently writing a novel about his grandparents' experiences immigrating to America and a woman who ran away to the circus when she was 9 years old. First of all, the audience has grown attachments to the 2-week champi-



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

FREE RESPONSE. One can see the potential for difficulty in some of these questions, but the multiple choice manages to get rid of that. Here was one actual question from *twenty-one*:

Q: Which of the following is a Las Vegas hotel in the shape of an Egyptian pyramid?

- a) Caesar's Palace
- b) MGM Grand
- c) Luxor
- d) Excalibur

I was absolutely stunned. That question was worth \$32,000. They don't need to set someone up with the answers when they give choices like that. The worst part was the number of "lifelines" the contestant could use. His friend was able to come out from backstage at least 4 times the entire show.

To make the situation even more absurd,

on, so they won't pick the smart one. Second, regardless of the champion, who's going to turn down the chance to see a circus freak at work?

The entrepreneur in me says that it's about time the tightfisted corporations started giving away more cash. I always wondered why they were so stingy in the first place. The returns on a couple of million dollars of prize money are enormous for the broadcasting company.

But the sociologist in me sees a sad but inevitable trend. People don't want to look in awe at others that have amassed more knowledge anymore. People want to feel good about themselves. With that false sense of self-satisfaction comes a complacency that goes against everything American. People want to be soothed and told that they too could someday be a millionaire.

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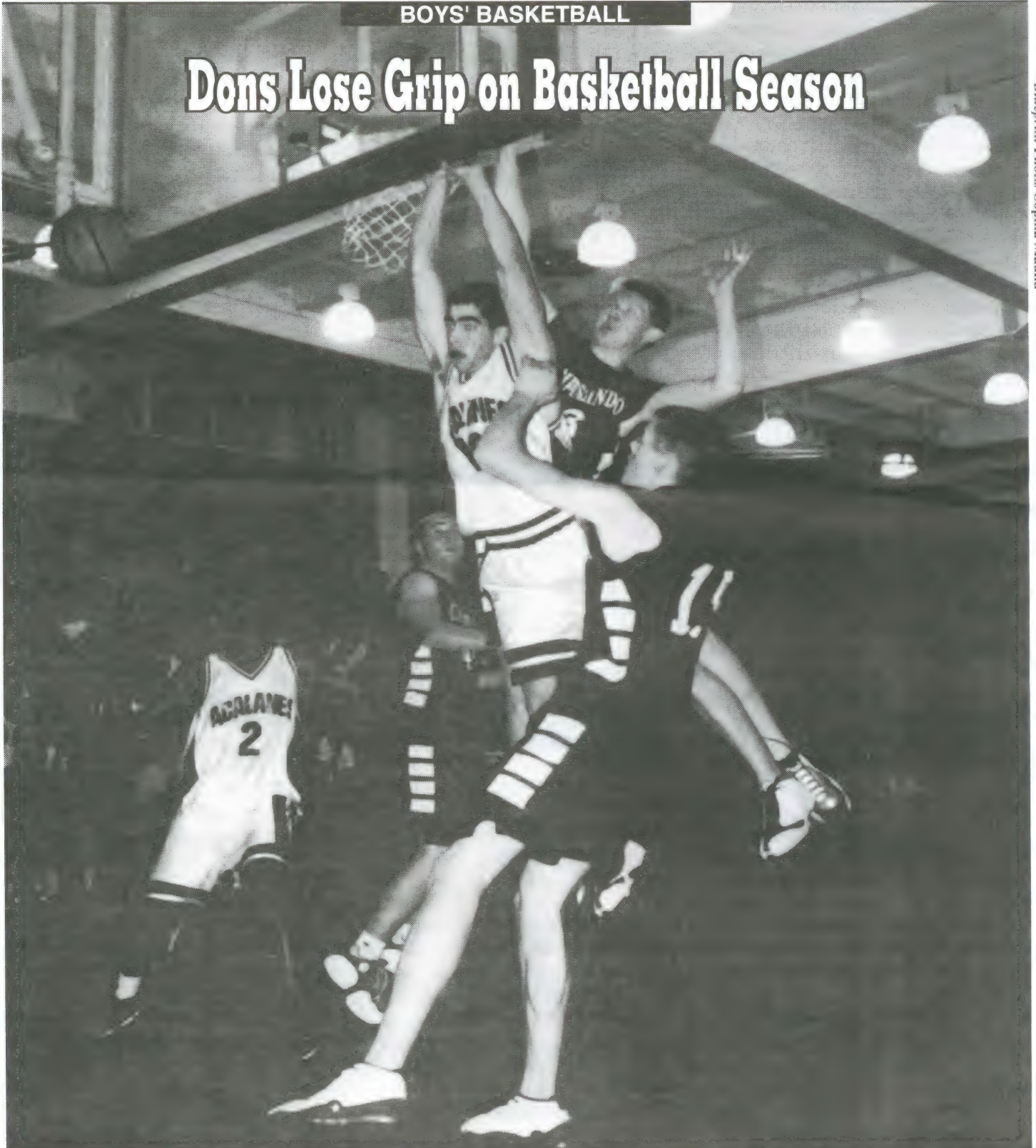
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BOYS' BASKETBALL

Dons Lose Grip on Basketball Season



Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund

TRACK

Boys Hurdle Over Alhambra in First Meet

By Keenan Ng and Jason Ahn
Staff Writers

The long distance team has logged in the miles. The sprinters have spent their time in the weight room. The throwers have finished selecting a grill for their BBQ's. Now, finally, the Acalanes Track Team is ready to see where all of its off season work will get them.

On Wednesday, Mar. 8, the boys track team beat Alhambra 72-64 in the first dual meet of the year, and it was partially rained out and had to be delayed until the next day.

"It was so cold my legs began to hurt," said senior runner Orion Wolfe who ran the mile in an understandably unspectacular 5:27.

On the mens side the boys did well. 800m runner, Vijay Sekhon ran his first of two laps in 0:59 seconds and finished with a 2:07. Despite

the slowness of his second lap, he still took first place and beat his nearest opponent by about 40m.

In the 100m, senior Ali Almufti, as expected, took first overall.

Freshman Paulie Crookshank took 1st in the 300m hurdles with a time of 44.7 seconds.

In the mile, sophomore Royce Anderson finished second with a time of 4:55 and junior Steve Vetek finished third with a 4:57.

In the field events, senior Corey Hardin took first in shot put with a throw of 4' 8", and first in the discus with a distance of 132' 3 3/4".

Junior Peter Lennon took first in the high jump with a height of 6 feet, and junior Josh Ward took first in the pole vault with a height of 11 feet.

Senior Dave Woodworth, coming off of basketball season, once again dominated the long and triple jump

taking first place in both. With jumps of 19' 1 3/4" for the long jump and 39 inches for the triple jump.

On the girls side, the outcome wasn't as favorable, as they lost their first dual meet 95-41. Notables were the 4x100 relay team which consisted of junior Allie Armstrong, senior Meg Allen, junior Megan Kalvass, and junior Marimikel Charrier, who took a time of 52.2 seconds. Senior Shelley Matsutani won the 800m in a time of 2:36.4.

In the field events, junior Samantha Skarl won the discus with a throw of 82 feet and Kalvass won the triple jump with a jump of 14' 8".

While the girls didn't perform so well this meet, as a whole the team is ready for their next opponent, Benicia. In terms of the future of the upcoming season, the Dons are very confident.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Acalanes Dynasty Comes to an End

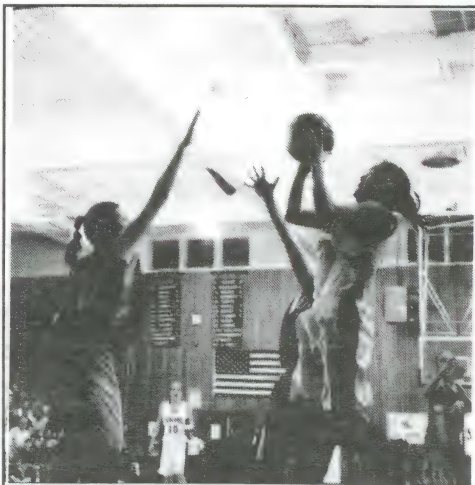
By Hiro Kagiya
Staff Writer

The Dons returned home licking their wounds caused by the sting of battle. Though physically beaten, their spirits remain unbroken and the Dons philosophy of "Never Die" will surely bring them back to the heights of Valhalla with the coming of the next season.

The Dons' road to glory has hit a pot-hole in the form of the Novato Hornets, who on Friday, Mar. 2, proceeded to beat the Dons 57-54 in an agonizingly close match-up.

With the buzzer, the Hornets came out ready to win and by the end of the second quarter, the Dons were limping to the ice box with the score standing at 27-4 in Novato's favor. The Hornets were able to capitalize on the lack of rebounds made by Acalanes with playing great defense and grabbing 28 rebounds compared to 14 made by the Dons.

After the opening minutes of the second half, it was apparent that the Dons were playing like a new team. Leading this new attack was senior Corrie Mi-



Senior Corrie Mizusawa hits a fadeaway jumper in a hard loss in a NCS game against Novato, ending the Dons chances to defend their State Title.

zusawa, who had a team high of 27 points that night. Junior Laura Fischer, who made 10 points followed by 2 blocks, heightened the team's morale. Novato held these two ace shooters at bay with their own Cecilia Boje, who had 20 points that night and an amazing 11 rebounds. She blew the Dons out of the water on several occasions with her speed and handling skills. In the last seconds of the fourth quarter, the Dons were unable to produce the crucial three point shot and the Hornets flew off with a huge victory on their shoulders going on to the finals.

Even with this crushing defeat pushing the Dons out of the State Finals, the Dons still retain their skills and grow larger from this experience. The Dons are losing much of their starting lineup including their star shooter Corrie Mizusawa, and only time will tell of the team's future success.

Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser

BOYS BASKETBALL

Dons Lose Hold on NCS Championships

By Alex Gallo and

Nathalie de Leon

Staff Writer and News Editor-

The Dons' season came to an end at the hands of Pinole 68-63 due to some questionable calls at the end of the game. With 30 seconds left in the game and down by six points, junior Daryl Dudum stole the ball and threw it off the knees of a Pinole player. The referees saw it differently, calling a foul on Dudum. Unfortunately, the refs have the final say in this imperfect game. The Dons had to travel on a three-hour bus ride to have their season end in controversy. Pinol's head coach refused to comment.

The Cougars came out sizzling taking a commanding 12-0 lead, but the Dons roared back as junior Carlo Milani scored the next eight points. For the rest of the first quarter, the Dons were down by four. They never got any closer. Throughout most of the game, Acalanes was fighting just to stay within ten points. The Matadors closed out the game on a 12-2 run.

The Dons overcame several distractions to beat Benicia the night before Friday's loss. The victory was overshadowed by the actions that followed. After the game, a brick was thrown in the Dons' locker room. After the police were called, Acalanes players were escorted to their bus where they were instructed to sit with their heads between their legs and their hands covering their necks. One anonymous Piner player said, "They're a great team. They shoot the ball well. We knew we had to play great defense."

The Dons leapt into victory on Leap Day, Feb. 29 on the home court against the Encinal Jets, overcoming a heavily anticipated size difference.

The Dons maintained a close lead throughout the game, relying on a time-tested offense and a tough defense to establish their dominance on the court. The offense was driven by seniors Jake Altgelt, and Terry Moore, who dominated the paint despite Encinal's size advantage. Like David against Goliath, the Dons utilized surprise plays to crush the Jets, using 3-point specialist Roger Curtis to his full potential.

In a moment of glory, Curtis scored two

threes in a row to pull the Dons ahead 55-50 at 7:23 in the third, rocketing past the Encinal lead.

Both teams played aggressively, with Encinal trying to speed up an inside game. The Dons tried to keep it slow, depending on calm strength to pull off the outside game they needed. By the half, each team had racked up ten fouls.

Encinal couldn't get it together in the second half, missing several twos and threes. The Jets consistently missed three or four jump shots in a row throughout the fourth quarter. The Dons pushed ahead quickly, culminating in a long-standing 71-56 lead for the majority of the fourth quarter.

In the end, Milani scored 26 points and Curtis had 33, including nine threes. The final score was 87-80, Dons.

Jets player Ricky Weaver said that the key to Acalanes' offense was in its screens.

"We were mostly trying to play defense. They're good," said Weaver. "They were making good screens on number 15 (Curtis) and I couldn't get to him."

Encinal Coach Dan Palley said his team tried to use its size edge over the Dons coming into the game.

"We had hoped to press, but we knew it wasn't a sure thing," said Palley. "We thought an up-tempo game might favor us because we had hoped to defend against their 3-point shooters a little better."

Curtis said they tried to maintain a slow, solid game. "They were really athletic and they had a really huge edge on the rebounds so we had to focus on getting rebounds," said Curtis. "We wanted to slow the tempo down."

Milani said they looked for the key weaknesses in the Jets defense. "We tried to drive



Junior point guard Daryl Dudum rises over a Piner opponent with a pretty finger roll lay-up in a Piner victory which ended the Dons NCS run.

it through the middle a lot; sometimes it was wide open," said Milani.

He added, "Size does matter, but if you play good defense and you box them up, then you keep them off the board, and size doesn't really have that much of an effect."

This came after heartbreak of a loss to Campolindo, Friday, Feb. 25. Acalanes was led by the play of Milani who at times kept the Dons in the game single-handedly. Milani had 32 points on the game.

BASEBALL

Dons Undefeated in Pre-Season

By Jason Ahn

Staff Writer

The sun was setting down behind Briones Hill while the last rays of the sun peeked through the valleys in between the hills. "You guys need lights," said a spectator.

The Acalanes baseball team played against Hayward and gave up only two hits. Acalanes took control, and dictated the flow of the game. The game went by quickly and smoothly because of the outstanding pitching by the Acalanes team, said Acalanes Coach Borghi.

Acalanes won games against Hayward, College Park, and Ygnacio Valley, and they currently have an undefeated pre-season record of 5-0.

One of the starting pitchers for Acalanes, Eric B. Lee, threw a six inning no-hitter against the College Park Falcons, and Acalanes went on to win the game 6-0.

There was a hitting fest in the fifth inning both by the Acalanes batters and the opposing pitcher. The adrenaline was pumping and the wild pitches of the College Park reliever struck many Acalanes

players. "It doesn't hurt! Yeah!" The team yelled in encouragement to their "beaned" teammates.

John Derne pitched against Ygnacio Valley and gave up one run early on in the game, but the hot bats of senior Jesse Ingram, junior Justin Rorhs, senior Andy Kolar, and the golden glove defense came back to dominate. The Dons came away victorious, 6-1. Ingram went an amazing 3-3 with one RBI, and Kolar went 1-2 with one RBI as well.

Junior Cory Timbers also had an RBI and Coach Borghi commented, "He's a stud. He's got a lot packed in to that 5' 4" body of his."

The superlative pitching of the Acalanes team was invariably their key to success.

Coach Cisneros of the Hayward team commented, "Acalanes has a good solid team."

A fan of the Hayward team, who wished to remain anonymous said, "the rain has just been killing everyone," and the Hayward team agreed that the rain was the leading cause to their loss.

"[Acalanes] looked like a university...all these kids driving around their Mercedes Benz and Volvos and everything else."

It was like two different worlds coming

together to play a game of baseball in the Hayward game.

Even after suffering a loss, Hayward pitcher Soto, complemented Acalanes because they were disciplined, well coached, and that "they hit the fastball pretty good."

SWIMMING

Swimming For Kicks

By Quinn Fitzgerald

Staff Writer

Aquadons start season kicking. After months of rigorous preseason training, varsity swimmers greeted the season with a 3000 yard kick set. "It was a brutal first day," said junior Robin Seigfried, as she limped into class. At school the next day, swimmers were seen with stiff legged gates and cries of pain. Assistant Coach Ethan Green said, "Kicking is an integral part of swimming and if you think pain isn't, then you're in the wrong sport."

According to Head Coach Jeff Miller, "Last years hard work payed off and it will again this year." Last year, the guys finished fourth out of 93 teams at North Coast Sectionals, and the girls earned fourth place at league. Miller is optimistic for this season, looking for top-ten in both girls and boys at NCS.

After graduating nine senior boys out of the fourteen on varsity last year, Miller said, "The guys side lacks depth," but adds "the returning veterans are very strong." Key veterans include: junior Pat Dodd and seniors Danny Holligan and Trevor Wagner.

The girls have much more depth, with seven returning seniors, including Sonya Lamel and Anne Olsen. Freshman Gina Sulprizio will also be a major contributor this season.

The Aquadons are holding all of their practices this season at the new Campo pool due to construction at home. Although most swimmers would rather train in home waters, "the reward is a brand- new pool next year" said Dodd.

The Dons natatorium will have a repaved deck, new tiles, and an eight-lane digital scoreboard.



Senior John Derne slides into third base on an attempted steal at home in an Acalanes pre-season win.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Society's Slurs Foul-up the Court

Players and fans weigh in on state of sportsmanship

By Myles Rush, Hiro Kagiya,
and Heather Klurfeld

*Sports Editor, Staff Writer, and
Entertainment Editor*

Throughout history, from the Roman gladiators during the reign of Alexander the Great, to the crucible of baseball in the early twentieth century, sports have both defined and reflected the values of a society. Sports were a form of chivalry, conducted in a gentlemanly manor according to rules. Opponents were foes, not warriors or barbarians fixed to crush the opponent, simply conquer him. But now, as we reach the pinnacle of the technological age, our professional, collegiate, and high school sports show deterioration of society and the need for social progression.

From the court of the NBA to the sod under the LMYA tee, there has been a barrage of unsportsmanlike conduct displayed by players and spectators. Accompanying this influx of poor conduct is a breakdown of honor and respect. Sportsmanship has deteriorated from a mutual respect of both players and fans, to an obstinate drive to win at the cost of self-restraint and civil behavior.

The youth of today neglect to see the degradation of sportsmanship that older generations have witnessed. They are the product of an environment that lacks the basic elements of sportsmanship. Many of today's youth consider bad sportsmanship acceptable.

The social breakdown is best noted by the older generation that has

been able to witness a long-term decay in sportsmanship. Dick Callahan, the public announcer for the Golden State Warriors basketball team for eighteen years, has seen the drastic decline in professional basketball and how it has diffused to all levels of the sport: "We live in a very disposable society where people throw away things like relationships and family, and a lot of times

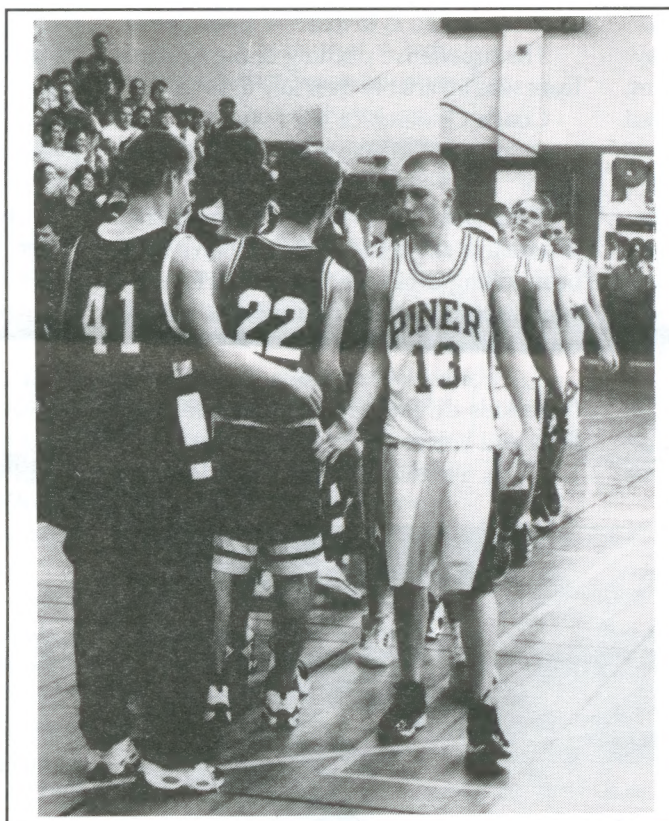
"Players feel that they can do anything they want, so when you get that way, the natural inclination for most human beings is to relax," said Warrior television broadcaster and former NBA player Jim Barnett. "Money has changed professional sports for the worst."

This "disposable society" is evident throughout the Bay Area through the recent acts of unsportsmanlike conduct at the high school level. Foul words, fanatic spirit clubs, and physical violence are the examples of the deterioration of sports. This poor behavior is visible in both players and fans.

It is evident that basketball is a cauldron of unsportsmanlike activity because of the basic nature of the game. As the sportsmanship of the fans becomes more disreputable, sportsmanship on the court seems to be following the same downward spiral. "I think the fans are representative of our society, especially in the game of basketball where they are so close to the court you can hear everything they are saying. People are just out of control," said Acalanes Men's Varsity Basketball coach Rob Collins.

The quest for the ever-elusive victory and the obsessive desire to win has

been displayed by the actions of Acalanes opponents throughout this season. At the playoff game against Benicia, there was an obscene amount of profanity and inexcusable behavior directed at Acalanes by Benicia fans. The poor behavior culminated in a near riot at the end of the game when many Benicia



Piner and Acalanes players express their respect towards each other after the game. This was one point in every game where good sportsmanship was displayed.

good attitudes, too. As a result... people become insensitive to the real aspect of the sport, and it has become somewhat obliterated as a real purpose to play."

The fanatic publicity and lucrative contracts that professional players have, compounds the problem further. With money comes power.

Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlander

fans, angry that their team lost, descended upon the court to attack Acalanes players. The violence continued, though. Acalanes players were congregated in the locker room when Benicia fans threw bricks through their own windows at Acalanes players, said junior guard Carlo Milani.

Yet the Benicia fans do not stand alone in their abusive actions. Other forms of poor conduct are apparent. Miramonte's Sixth-Man Club is a spirited group of fans whose goal is to distract the opposing team while energizing their own team. Their distractive tactics include standing on the sidelines directly trash-talking their opponents, and flashing newspapers when the opposing team enters the arena, said Sixth-Man Club member Kevin Brown. "We try to promote school spirit in any way we can," he said.

Senior guard Roger Curtis received the brunt of attacks by fans. Throughout the season Curtis was singled out and intentionally subjected to mental and physical abuse by his opponents. While Las Lomas fans enlarged pictures of Curtis with

heckling, foul language, and verbal personal attacks on opponents throughout the basketball season Schmidt said.

The primary concern of the Acalanes faculty is a lack of respect, according to Schmidt. He feels that spectators used to follow an unwritten code of moral and ethical standards. In this new age of sportsmanship, though, this once cherished code is overshadowed by the need to win, Schmidt said. "We are pretty much a respect-less society."

High School Sports Focus Host and

***"We are pretty much a
respectless society."***

Principal Keith Schmidt

Executive Producer Robert Braunstein, who covers 1,200 high school sporting events every year, however, does not see the same decline as do Schmidt and Collins: "It is my experience that the sportsmanship at these games is for the most part fine. The fans in the stands are trying to have fun and support their teams while not being too mean to the other side." Braunstein feels that there has not been a drastic change in sportsmanship and conduct by fans. He admits that, while he was in college, schools were more inappropriate "and it was then seen as supporting your team."

Coach Collins disagrees, though, saying, "All that profanity shows is a sense of ignorance."

Acalanes players and fans feel that their demonstrations are merely "a way to show team spirit and school pride," said junior guard Daryl Dudum. "This has always been part of the game...at all levels, from the pros to the high school level. Basketball just wouldn't be the same without it," said Dudum. Dudum, Curtis, and Milani all say that

the screaming and obscenities do not affect their playing. Although it may be "inappropriate, it's in the game. The fans are just supporting our players," said Milani.

Theresa Collins, an avid Acalanes sports fan, agrees. "When I cheer, I'm not thinking, 'Let's be rude...' people don't cheer to be inappropriate; they cheer to be supportive." Collins, who has often been admonished by the administration for yelling obscenities, says that her motive is to encourage her team while distracting the opponent. "I have a lot of spirit and this is my way of expressing allegiance to my team and my school."

While Collins feels that the cheering fans should be taken as a compliment that so many people feel a sense of pride in their school, ex-cheerleader Jessica Reid feels otherwise. After witnessing many sporting events, Reid feels that Acalanes fans are inconsiderate: "They're an embarrassment to our school—they are a poor reflection of the student body." Reid is particularly offended by the obscenities and personal attacks. However, she admits that, while Acalanes may be better than most schools, "we are nothing to be proud of."

This year Acalanes fans and players have maintained a positive and steady increase in good sportsmanship, according to Athletic Director Dave Girsch. "(Conduct) has been improving considerably...This past year (inappropriate) comments have been fewer, but there are still a few people that are not acting the way they should...but it has improved and it takes time," he said.

While the quest to win has become more fierce and the battle cry has become a little more obscene, one thing still remains the same: "Someone wins and someone loses... but true players are the people who can do both equally," said Dudum. Thus, as we view the breakdown of society, we find ourselves attempting to reach an equilibrium of good conduct among the players and the fans where the game will reach the point of cultural nirvana.

***"I have a lot of spirit and
this is my way of
expressing allegiance to
my team and my school."***

--Theresa Collins

the caption "Are you sick?" during the Las Lomas league game, two technical fouls were also committed against Curtis. "I think those players have a lack of respect. If they have to go to (that) level to try to beat me it shows poor sportsmanship on their part," Curtis said.

Although Acalanes fans have not displayed the same magnitude of violence and disrespect, they have not been "angels," according to Principal Keith Schmidt. Their mode of "poor conduct" has centered on

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

John Derne

Senior John Derne is in his second year, and he plays a starring role on the Acalanes Baseball Team at the starting pitcher position. Derne graces the field at the mound, starting one game a week, while senior Eric Lee starts the rest of the time. Derne is a prime-time, powerhouse athlete, and has been a key component in the team's 5-0 pre-season start this year. In his first start of the season against Ygnacio Valley on Mar. 11, he performed masterfully, throwing four innings and giving up only one run and one hit. Acalanes went on to win the game, 6-1. "As a pitcher, that's the most important spot on the field. When you get up there on the bump, you got to throw...we need him," said Acalanes Head Baseball Coach David Borghi. His pitching portfolio this year consists of two starts, one win, and no losses. Last year Derne didn't pitch because of a separated shoulder, but this year he will make a tremendous impact on the team's success, and for this he is this issue's Male Athlete of the Issue.

Mary Thomas

In her third year on the varsity track team, senior Mary Thomas has established herself into a leadership role as team captain. She has tremendous athletic ability, but more noteworthy is the positive attitude and team pride that she relays to her teammates. Thomas runs the two-mile and one-mile events, and last year her superlative efforts propelled her into North Coast. This year she is plagued with a knee injury, limiting her ability to perform, but she still has a chance to qualify for North Coast. Thomas doesn't use her injury as an excuse not to excel, but instead she continues her regiment of training and workouts. Because of her positive attitude and perseverance through adversity, Mary Thomas has had continued success on the team and is this issue's Female Athlete of the Issue.



Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund